

AUSTIN **ANNUAL**  
**2018** **CONFERENCE**  
**& SHOWPLACE**

Cybersecurity:  
Protecting Your Clients  
and Organization

October 15, 2018



**HFAs** AT THE  
**CENTER**



# Presenters

## Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs

Curtis Howe, Director of Information Systems

Jordan Genung, CISSP, Information Security Officer

Larry Mercadel, Network Administrator

## New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority

David Hebert, Managing Director of Information Technology

## WP Engine

Brent Stackhouse, Director of Security

# Session Overview

1. Three presentations and Q&A to provide real, practical help in assessing and improving your organization's information security program
2. Information for everyone (business and technical)
3. Cybersecurity management, planning, and budgeting

# TDHCA Presentation Agenda

1. Planning and budgeting, with Texas examples
2. Texas Cybersecurity Framework
3. Threat landscape
4. Security considerations



# 1. Cybersecurity Planning and Budgeting

- Think of information security as a critical service to your customers, not just as costs and controls
- Legislators, executive management, and customers expect you to budget time and money for security
- In Texas, special procedures for cybersecurity components of agency appropriations requests highlight the emphasis on protecting customer data





## 2. Texas Cybersecurity Framework

- Based on NIST CSF and FISMA
- Components:
  - Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter §202
  - Controls Standards Catalog (based on NIST SP800-53)
  - Biennial Agency Security Plan (based on NIST CSF)
- Utilized by Texas state agencies and higher education
- Texas Department of Information Resources website:  
[www.dir.texas.gov](http://www.dir.texas.gov) > Resources > Information Security



## 3. Threat Landscape

### Threats

- Ransomware
- Data breaches
- Phishing
- Insider threats

### Causes Of Compromise

- Lack of basic cyber hygiene
- Lack of patching/misconfiguration
- Credential theft
- Lack of monitoring, training, and awareness

**HFAs have an important responsibility to protect customer data**

## 4. Security Considerations

- Security governance
- Best practice frameworks
- Risk management
- Attack surface considerations
- Policies and procedures
- Foundational practices
- BCP/DRP/IRP
- Security awareness training



# Security Governance

- Executive support
- Resource allocation
- Align security with business requirements



Lack of security governance

# Best Practice Frameworks

- Texas Cybersecurity Framework
- NIST Cybersecurity Framework
- ISO 27001/27002
- Center for Internet Security - MS-ISAC Critical Security Controls

Function	Category	ID
Identify	Asset Management	ID.AM
	Business Environment	ID.BE
	Governance	ID.GV
	Risk Assessment	ID.RA
	Risk Management Strategy	ID.RM
	Supply Chain Risk Management	ID.SC
Protect	Identity Management and Access Control	PR.AC
	Awareness and Training	PR.AT
	Data Security	PR.DS
	Information Protection Processes & Procedures	PR.IP
	Maintenance	PR.MA
	Protective Technology	PR.PT
Detect	Anomalies and Events	DE.AE
	Security Continuous Monitoring	DE.CM
	Detection Processes	DE.DP
Respond	Response Planning	RS.RP
	Communications	RS.CO
	Analysis	RS.AN
	Mitigation	RS.MI
	Improvements	RS.IM
Recover	Recovery Planning	RC.RP
	Improvements	RC.IM
	Communications	RC.CO

NIST Cybersecurity Framework

# Risk Management

- Assessment, prioritization, and response to risk
- Considerations:
  - Do you have an inventory of systems?
  - Do you know which systems hold confidential or sensitive information?
  - Which systems are Internet facing and what services are running?

# Attack Surface Considerations

- Reduce attack surface
  - Internet facing systems
  - Domain and IP blocking
  - Country blocking
- DNS Blocking: Quad9  
<https://www.globalcyberalliance.org/quad9/>
- Comprehensive coverage: Web, email, and endpoint protection

# Attack Surface – Before Country Blocking



# Attack Surface – After Country Blocking



# Policies and Procedures

- Need to have them
- Need to enforce them
- Data classification is important!

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**“I sent my bank details and Social Security number in an e-mail, but I put ‘PRIVATE FINANCIAL INFO’ in the subject line so it should be safe.”**

# Foundational Practices

- Inventory management
- Patch and vulnerability management
- Configuration and change management
- Credential management





# BCP/DRP/IRP

- Business continuity planning
- Disaster recovery planning
- Incident response planning



# Security Awareness Training

- Fairly inexpensive....unless you don't do it!!
- Considerations:
  - In person training
  - Computer based training
  - Monthly newsletters
  - Simulated phishing exercises

