IS YOUR TEAM CYBER READY?
A checklist for strengthening your cybersecurity environment

There's always room for improvement, especially when it comes to cyber readiness and being prepared to pivot in today's ever-changing cyber landscape. Below is a fundamental checklist to help cybersecurity professionals understand all aspects of their cyber program from the C-suite to the administrator. This holistic look at your cybersecurity preparedness will help you assess the "health" of your cybersecurity culture and workforce while identifying areas for improvement.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

- ◯ There is a clear chain of command regarding notification of possible cyber events and decision-making capabilities, with a command-like operations structure
- ◯ Regular cyber risk management discussions occur among the leadership team
- ◯ Development and implementation of a cybersecurity program that leverages industry standards and best practices (inspired by NIST/NICE)
- ◯ Regular evaluation of cybersecurity budgets, plans, partners, incident reports and top-level policies

ADMINISTRATIVE MAINTENANCE

- ◯ There is a quarterly review to ensure correct permissions are granted to each employee, such as access to Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and Sensitive Personal Information (SPI)
- ◯ Maintenance of inactive user accounts is delegated to a staff member and routinely overseen by their manager
- ◯ There is a documented Incident Response Plan to deal with threats, including malware detection and treatment
- ◯ System logs are routinely reviewed as directed and stored
- ◯ Cybersecurity and privacy policies, procedures, and plans are reviewed and updated as needed on a quarterly basis
- ◯ An individual or individuals are responsible for reviewing and addressing security news bulletins to maintain security awareness
- ◯ Repeated testing of networks and technology investments via red team activities or third-party pen testing scheduled to accurately assess and remediate vulnerabilities before problems occur

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

- ◯ Bi-annual discussions with cyber teams about desired skills development needs and growth opportunities
- ◯ Cyber professionals have access to simulated network environments that allow them to practice defending and fighting attacks in real-time
- ◯ Perform mock cyber incident drills with senior executives, staff and cyber professionals to evaluate current security posture
- ◯ Cyber staff receive quarterly assessments to determine skills gap and additional training needed

NETWORK CONFIGURATION AND TECHNOLOGY

- ◯ Systems undergo automatic updates; those delayed are flagged to appropriate IT personnel
- ◯ Ensure continuous monitoring and auditing throughout the system's full lifecycle
- ◯ Network prevents unauthorized devices from connecting (i.e. USB, flash media)
- ◯ Secure web servers and workstations to avoid exploits
- ◯ All systems maintain a current license of an enterprise-grade cybersecurity detection and remediation solution

EMPLOYEE ALIGNMENT

- ◯ Train staff to be ever-ready: be alert, know appropriate actions, understand tools and their use
- ◯ A clearly stated, appropriate password policy is acknowledged by employees and there is a system (technological or otherwise) that confirms protections are properly applied and implemented
- ◯ Full-time employees and contractors receive recurring, mandatory enterprise security training
- ◯ Staff have access to only authorized web browsing

WE HOPE THIS HELPS YOU GET A MORE HOLISTIC PICTURE OF YOUR CYBER TEAM AND INFOSEC PROCESS.

NOW, LET'S CONNECT, SO WE CAN HELP YOU SUSTAIN AND GROW YOUR CURRENT EFFORTS.

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