## 2021 NCSR Now Open!

The 2021 Nationwide Cybersecurity Review (NCSR) is open for participation until **February 28, 2022**.

New users can register at https://www.cisecurity.org/ms-isac/services/ncsr/. Previous users can now log in at https://cis.my.logicmanager.com/.

The NCSR is a no-cost and anonymous self-assessment designed to measure the gaps and capabilities of SLTT governments' cybersecurity programs.

By participating in the NCSR, you will be able to:

- Receive metrics to identify your organization's cybersecurity maturity gaps.
- Measure your results anonymously against your peers.
- Fulfill the NCSR assessment requirement for the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP).
- Attain reporting that can be communicated with key stakeholders and utilized to prioritize the "next steps" towards cybersecurity improvement, based on areas of deficiency.
- Obtain aggregate NCSR data which provides a foundational understanding of SLTT cybersecurity posture to help drive policy, governance, and resource allocation.

If you have questions regarding administrative or technical questions about the NCSR, please reach out to ncsr@cisecurity.org.

## Membership Stats

At the MS-ISAC, our 3rd quarter is very much a portrait of the working world at large. We are now operating in a hybrid environment consisting of both virtual presentations and travel to events. In that light, our approach towards 12,000 members is still proceeding apace. Currently we serve 11,700 members and expect to hit 12,000 before the middle of November. Our teams are actively engaged in educating the SLTT community about MS-ISAC services, both in person and virtually, and we are happy to speak with your organization to help promote cybersecurity.

Our MDBR program is exceeding expectations and we added 1,500 new users to this service in just the last month alone. This brings us to just over 4,000 MDBR users. Our members are very happy with this new service as another layer of defense against potential malware. Please visit https://www.cisecurity.org/ms-isac/services/mdbr/ for more information and to sign up for this no cost, low resource-intensive service.

The EI-ISAC is hard at work helping to protect our Nation's critical elections infrastructure. From election day situation rooms to newsletters and advisories, the EI-ISAC has garnered the respect of Elections entities around the country. This hardworking team is also promoting, speaking and educating in both the virtual and physical worlds.

The MS-ISAC and EI-ISAC are membership-based organizations and work at the behest and to the benefit of our members. Our members define us and guide us and we thank you for all of your efforts! Become involved, volunteer for any of our working groups, make your thoughts known, tell us your concerns in the cybersecurity realm and allow us to wield the power of nearly 12,000 SLLT communities, from the smallest school districts to the largest States, to benefit us all. Please feel free to reach out to me (paul.hoffman@cisecurity.org) with your thoughts and concerns. They are always welcome and inform how we can better serve your needs.

Thank you to all of our current members for your efforts on our behalf and for touting the benefits of membership to your SLTT colleagues (and now private hospitals). We are stronger and more connected than ever before!

## The 5 Ws for Building a Strong Cybersecurity Plan

Creating a cybersecurity plan is the first step in starting secure and staying secure. Consider this when planning a budget, getting support from staff, and creating company goals. Check out our blog post below to learn more about these considerations:

https://www.cisecurity.org/blog/the-5-ws-for-building-a-strong-cybersecurity-plan/

## MS-ISAC Working Group Updates

**Business Resiliency Working Group:** The Table Top Exercises (TTXs) will be published to our public website soon! This will allow more users to access the short monthly table top exercises in their own environments.

**Education and Awareness Working Group:** The Education and Awareness Working Group will be judging for the annual Best of the Web Contest, where SLTTs showcase their websites that promote cybersecurity, and compete for the ultimate prize – bragging rights! Please submit your cybersecurity URL to contest@cisecurity.org no later than **October 31, 2021**.

**K-12 Working Group:** The K-12 Working Group continues to move full steam ahead! Our purpose is to connect districts across the country with a common goal of improving the overall cybersecurity posture of all school districts in the US. The K-12 Working Group meets on the third Monday of every month. Please contact Rachael Farrell at Rachael.Farrell@cisecurity.org or Brendan Montagne at Brendan.Montagne@cisecurity.org for more information on how to get involved. We look forward to seeing you!

*To join any of our MS-ISAC working groups, please reach out to info@msisac.org.*

## Virtual Services Reviews (VSR)

Since the launch of our Virtual Services Reviews (VSR) back in March 2021, more than 140 members have taken advantage of this new service with many more in the pipeline. These quick 30-minute check-ins give members an opportunity to provide feedback on the current services they are using, and learn more about the other great resources we offer. So, if you are looking to get the most out of your MS- and EI-ISAC membership, reach out to our team at: info@msisac.org and schedule your VSR today.

## MS-ISAC Cybersecurity Awareness Poster Contest

We are gearing up for this year's National Cybersecurity Awareness Poster Contest! Artwork from last year's contestants allowed us to offer a brand-new Kid's Activity Book as this year's resource for kids and adults alike on cybersecurity basics. The contest is open to all public, private or home-schooled students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. If you know any young people in your life who are interested in participating, please share the Poster Contest Guide and Entry Form with them! The deadline for submissions is **January 21, 2022**.

In addition to poster contest information, social media templates and posters featuring this past year's winning artwork, as well as the new activity book are all easy to access on the MS-ISAC Toolkit page. Please direct all entries and questions to contest@cisecurity.org.

## Mark Your Calendar!

- ✓ **Monthly Membership Call @ 3:00 P.M. Eastern**
  - o October 26, November 30, December 28
- ✓ **New Member Webcast @ 2:00 P.M. Eastern**
  - o October 28, December 2, December 30
- ✓ **ISAC National Webinar: The Next Generation Software Solution As Ecosystem for Land and Community Development @ 2:00 P.M. Eastern**
  - o Thursday, October 7