

SURETY ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH TEXAS

TRAVELERS LUNCH AND LEARN



Todd Vasilou
Cybersecurity Advisor
CISA Region 6

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

VISION

Secure and resilient
infrastructure for the
American people.

MISSION

CISA partners with industry and
government to understand and
manage risk to our Nation's
critical infrastructure.



OVERALL GOALS

GOAL 1

DEFEND TODAY

Defend against urgent
threats and hazards

seconds | days | weeks

GOAL 2

SECURE TOMORROW

Strengthen critical
infrastructure and
address long-term risks

months | years | decades

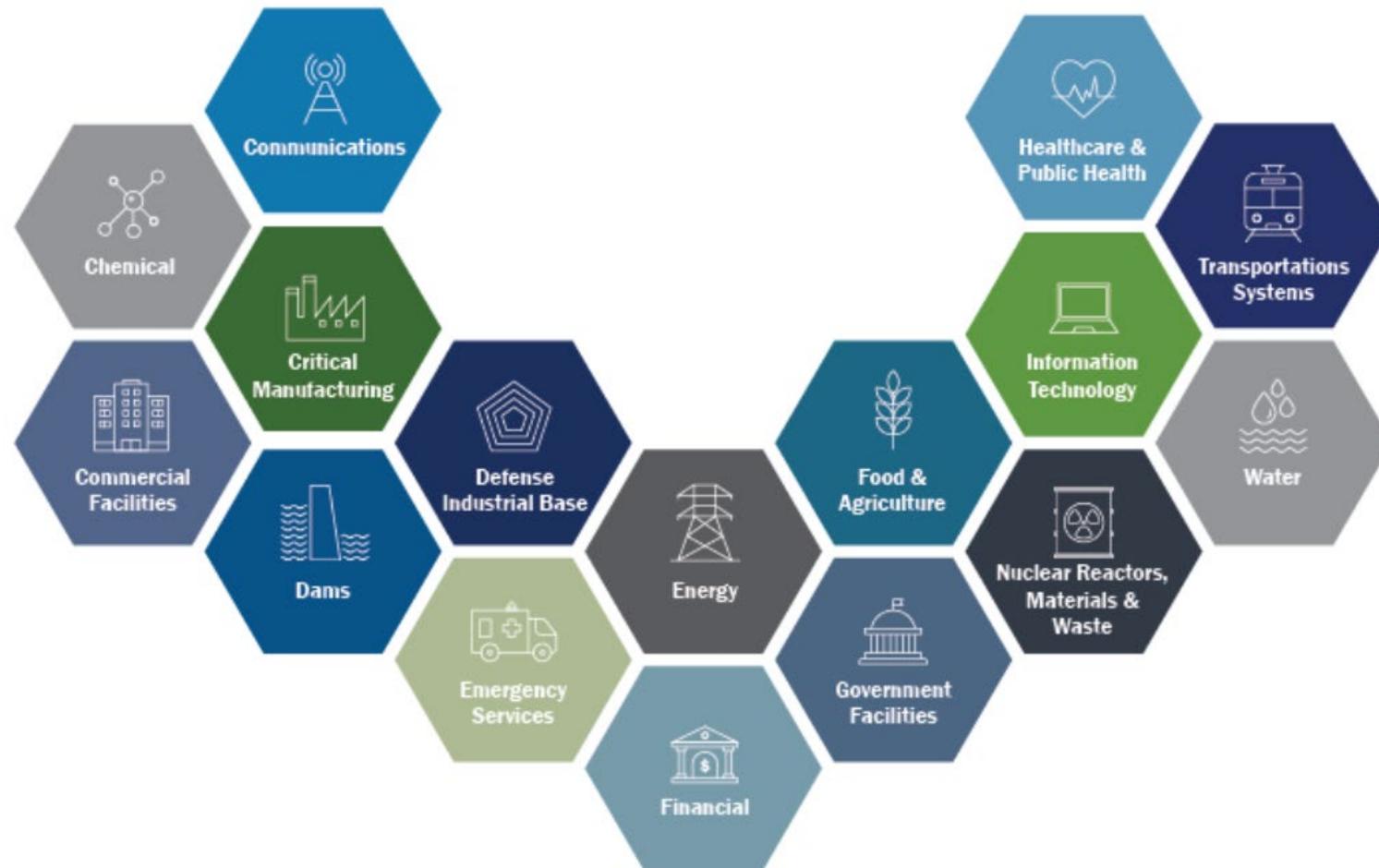
We are the Nation's Risk Advisor

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is the pinnacle of national risk management for cyber and physical infrastructure



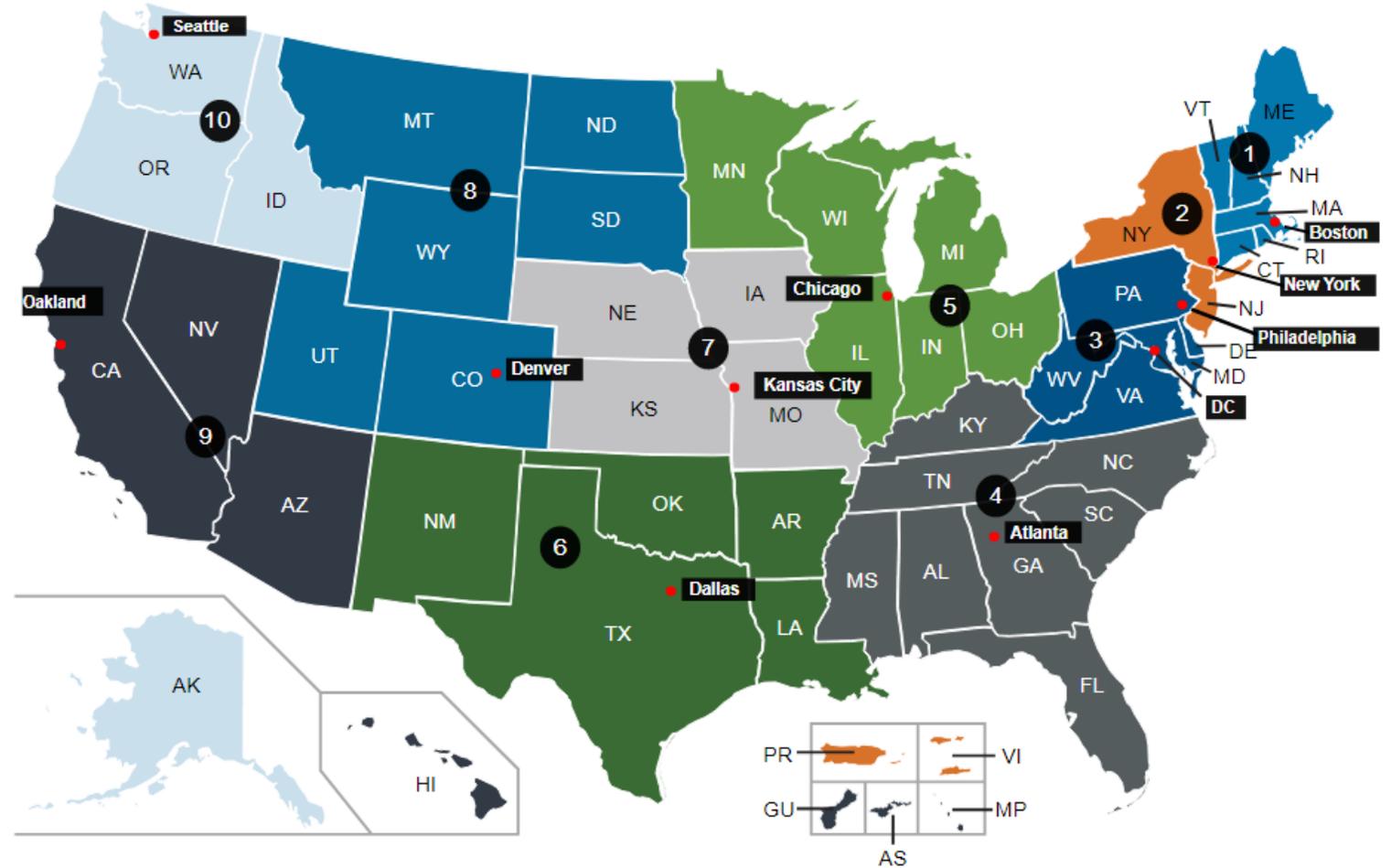
Critical Infrastructure Sectors

CISA assists the public and private sectors to secure their networks and focuses on organizations in the following 16 critical infrastructure sectors.



CISA Regions

Region	Location
1	Boston, MA
2	New York, NY
3	Philadelphia, PA
4	Atlanta, GA
5	Chicago, IL
6	Dallas, TX
7	Kansas City, MO
8	Denver, CO
9	Oakland, CA
10	Seattle, WA



[CISA Region 6: CISARegion6@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:CISARegion6@hq.dhs.gov)

Cyber Exercise
July 24, 2024

Cybersecurity Advisors (CSAs)

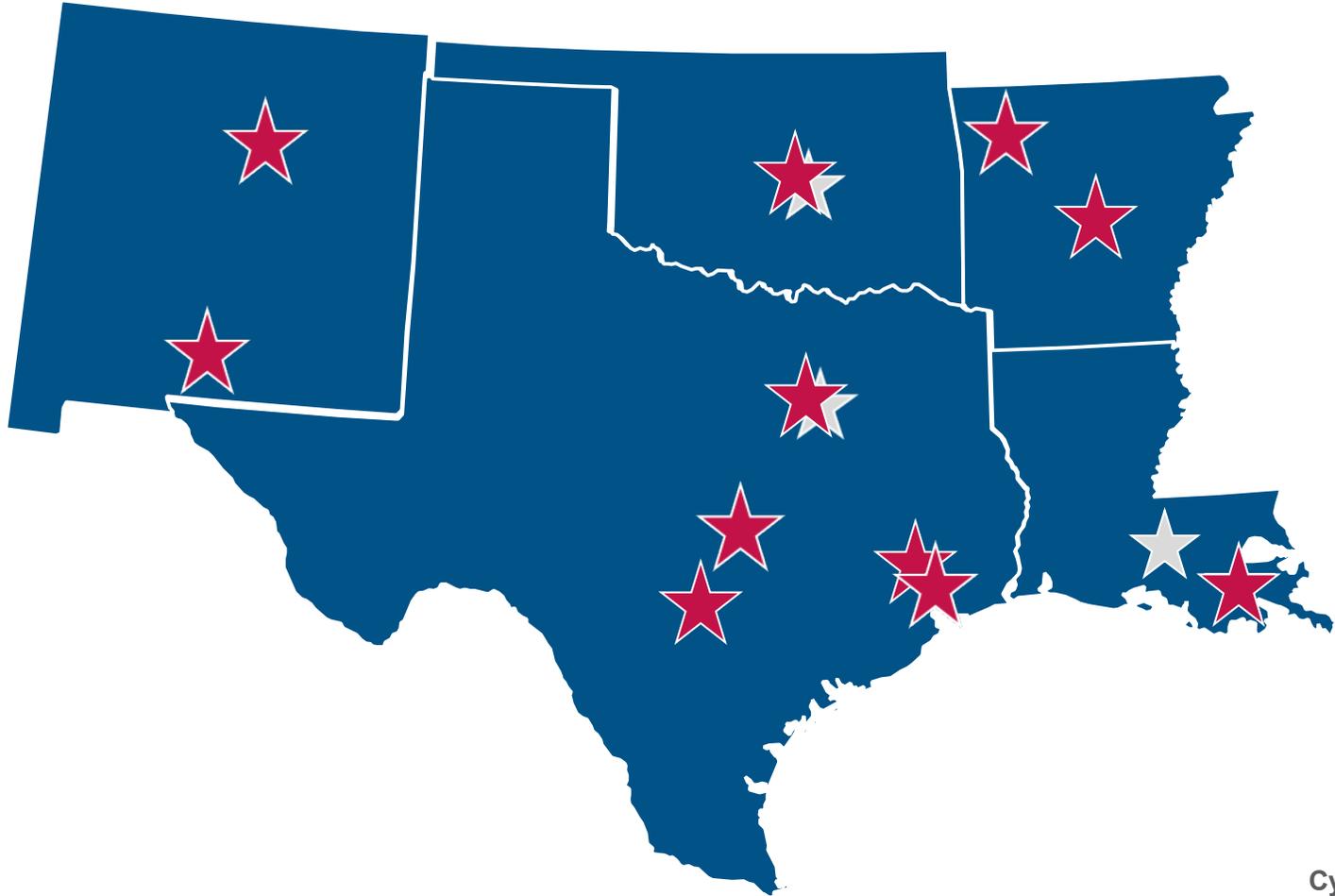
To provide direct coordination, outreach, and regional support in order to protect cyber components essential to the sustainability, preparedness, and protection of the Nation's Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR) and State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) governments.

- **Assess:** Evaluate critical infrastructure cyber risk.
- **Promote:** Encourage best practices and risk mitigation strategies.
- **Build:** Initiate, develop capacity, and support cyber communities-of-interest and working groups.
- **Educate:** Inform and raise awareness.
- **Listen:** Collect stakeholder requirements.
- **Coordinate:** Bring together incident support and lessons learned.



Reg 6 | On-Hand / Projected Cyber Personnel

- ★ On-Hand
- ☆ Projected



CISA THREAT BRIEFING

THREAT LANDSCAPE AND FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS



What is cybersecurity?

Definition: Cybersecurity

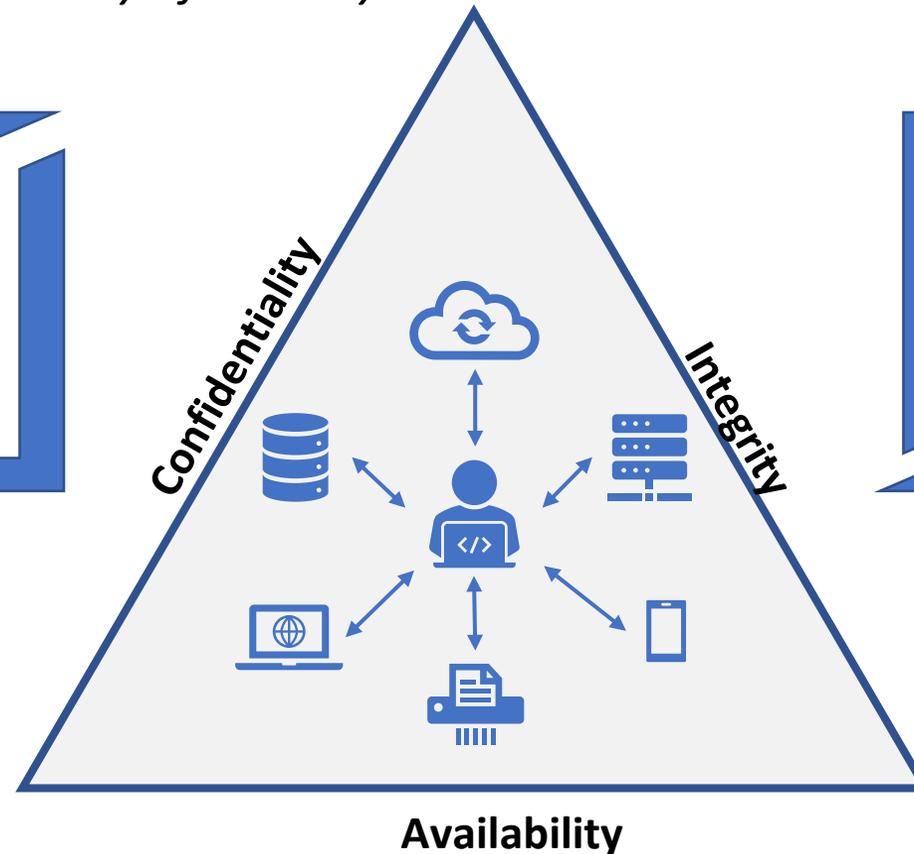
According to NIST, cybersecurity is “the prevention of damage to, unauthorized use of, exploitation of, and—if needed—the restoration of electronic information and communications systems, and the information they contain, in order to strengthen the confidentiality, integrity and availability of these systems.”

Source: [NIST Glossary of Terms](#)



Information refers to “[a]ny communication or representation of knowledge such as facts, data, or opinions in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual.”

Source: [NIST SP 800-171 Rev. 1 Protecting Controlled Unclassified Information in Nonfederal Systems and Organizations](#)



Information System refers to “[a] discrete set of information resources organized for the collection, processing, maintenance, use, sharing, dissemination, or disposition of information.”

Source: [NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 4 Security and Privacy Controls for Federal Information Systems and Organization](#)



Core Principles of Cybersecurity

C

Prevent unauthorized access and use of information resources

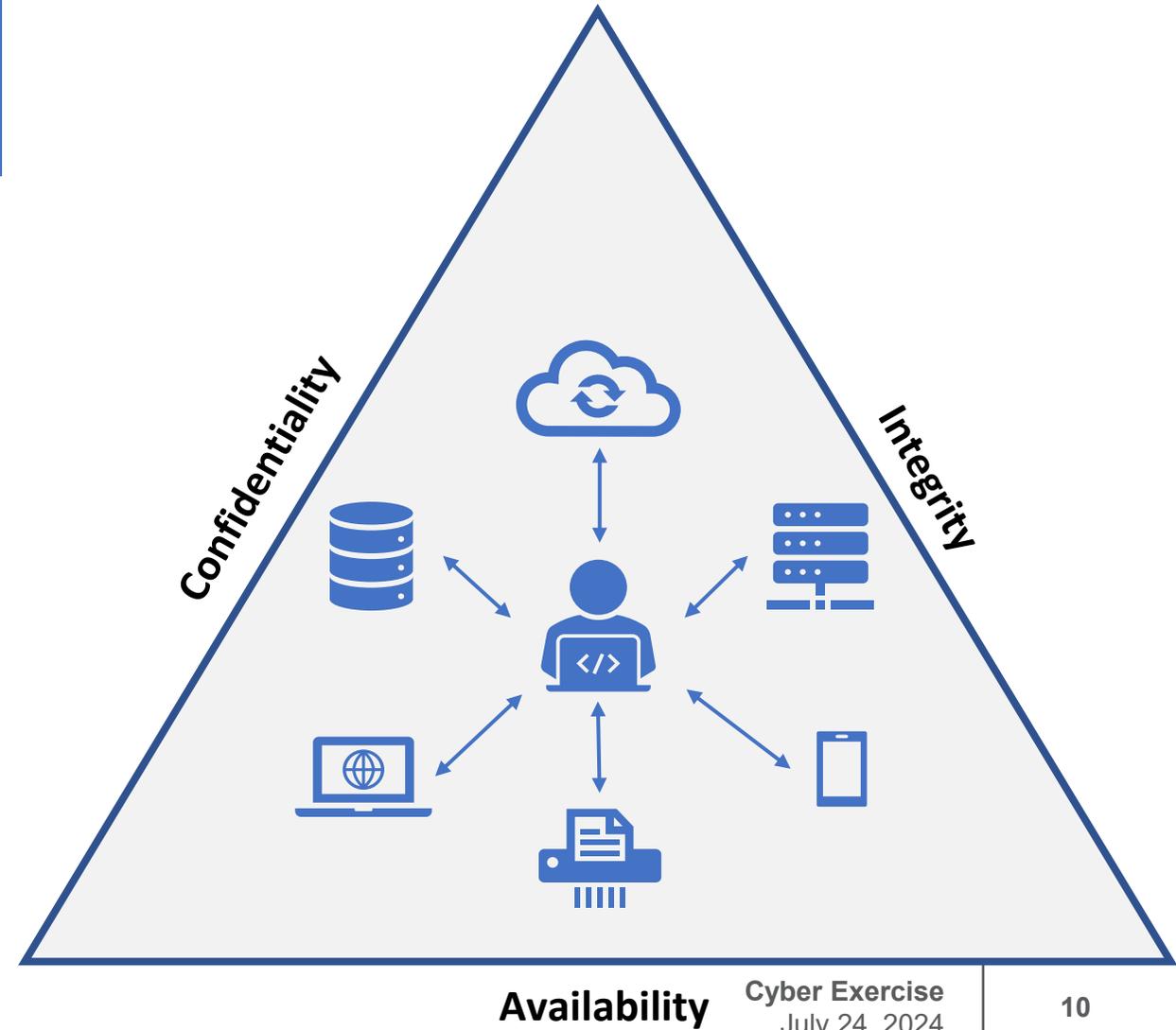
I

Prevent unauthorized change and ensure reliability of information resources

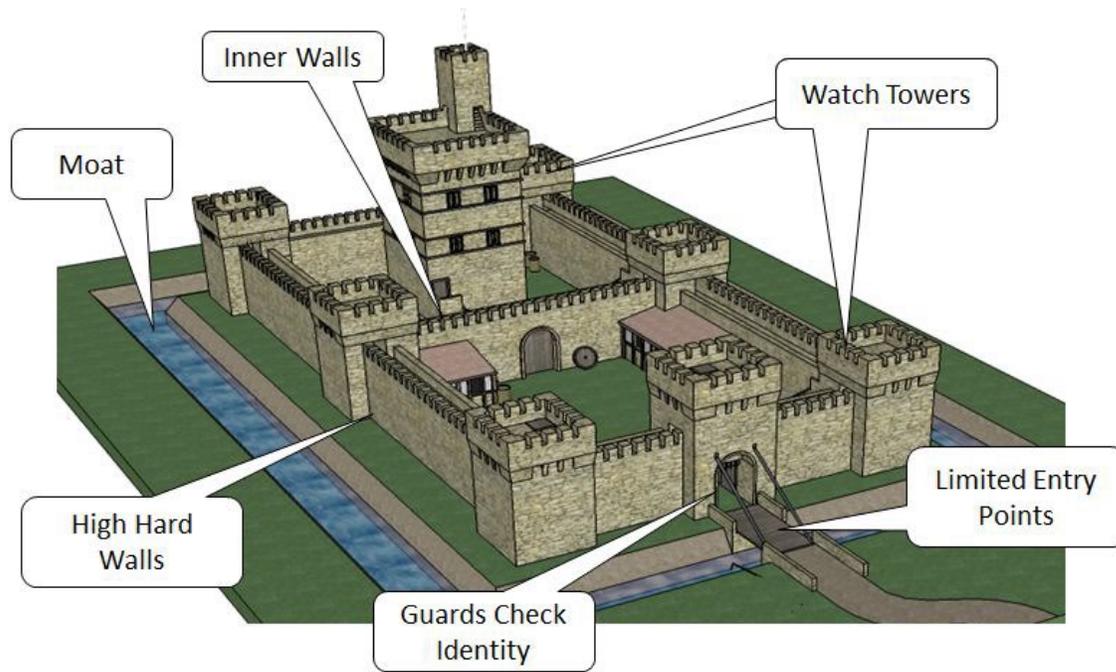
A

Ensure timely availability of information resources

Users must exercise due care to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the information resources under their care.



What are you trying to protect?



- Customer Data
- IT Assets and network Infrastructure
- Intellectual Property
- Finances and Financial Data
- Service Availability and Productivity
- Reputation and Trust

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-ND](#)



Threats

THREATS

Nature-Based

Threat actors who take actions to compromise the CIA of an organization.

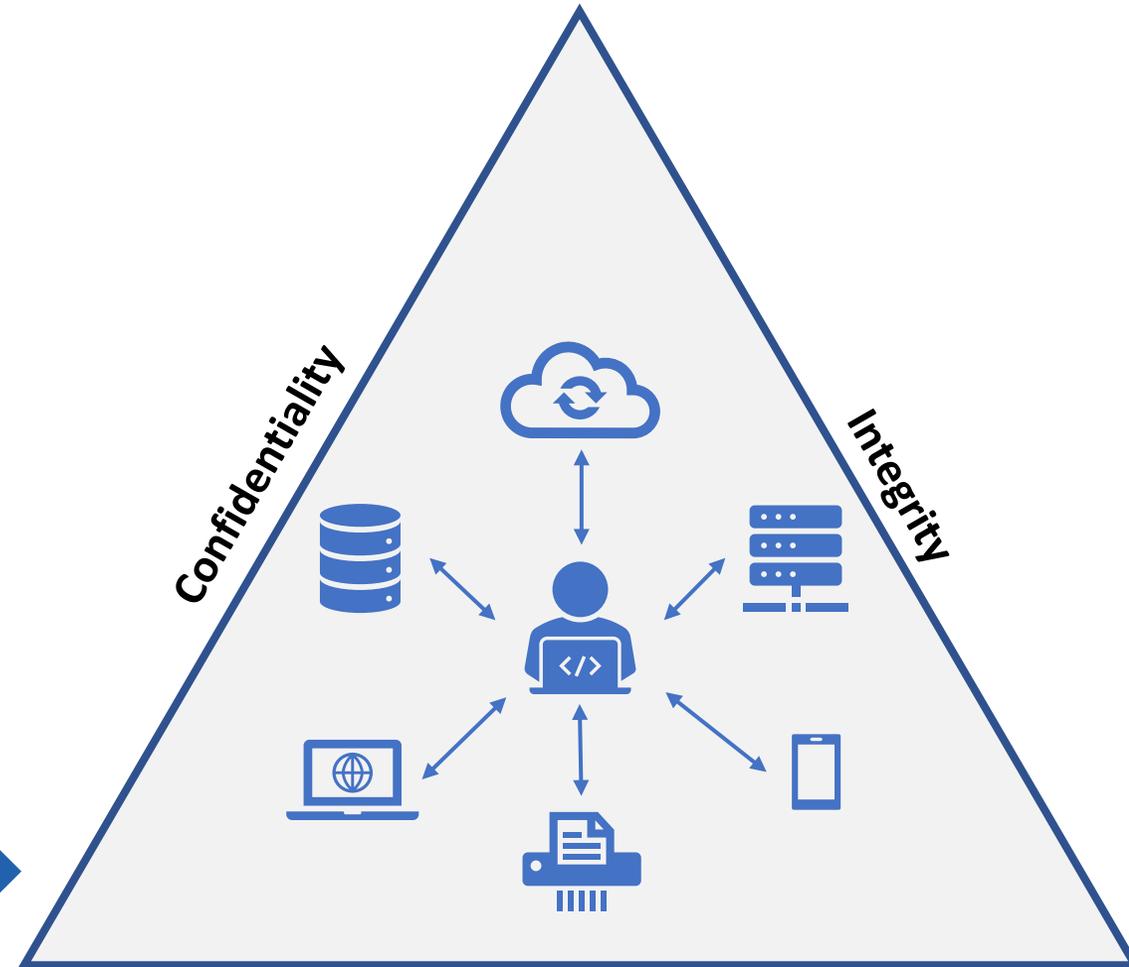


Human-Based

Threat actors who take actions to compromise the CIA of an organization.



Impact: Confidentiality, Integrity, and Availability



Availability

Cyber Exercise
July 24, 2024

Threat Actors

THREAT ACTORS

HACKTIVISTS

Conduct attacks in furtherance of political interests.



CRIMINALS

Conduct attacks in furtherance of financial interests.



INSIDERS

Conduct attacks in furtherance of personal interests.

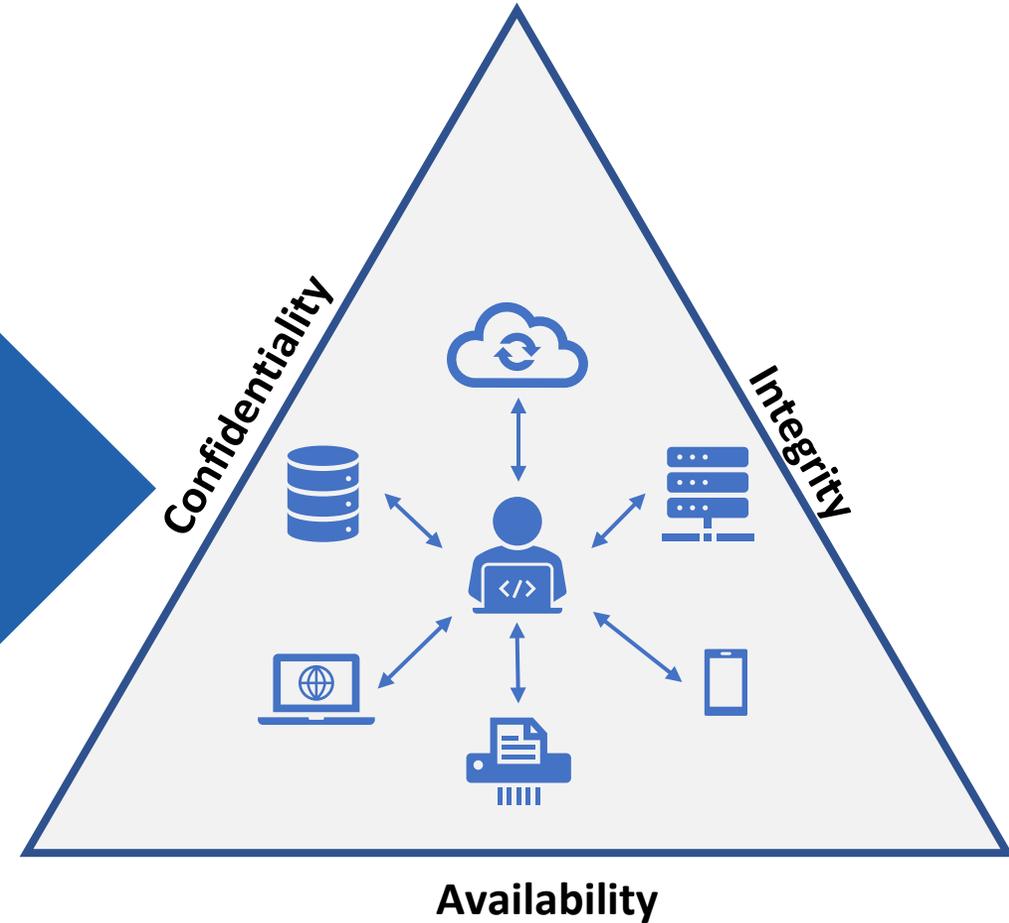


STATE ACTORS

Destruction, disruption, and espionage in furtherance of national interests.



Impact: Confidentiality, Integrity, and Availability



ODNI 2022 Annual Threat Assessment



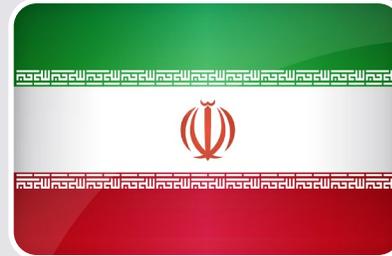
Russia - Remains a top cyber threat as it refines and employs its espionage, influence, and attack capabilities.

- Continues to target critical infrastructure, including underwater cables and industrial control systems.
- Considers cyber attacks an acceptable option to deter adversaries, control escalation, and prosecute conflicts.



China - Presents a prolific and effective cyber-espionage threat, possesses substantial cyber-attack capabilities, and presents a growing influence threat.

- Cyber pursuits and proliferation of related technologies increase the threats of cyber attacks against the US.
- Can cause localized, temporary disruptions to critical infrastructure within the US.



Iran - Expertise and willingness to conduct aggressive cyber operations make it a significant threat to the security of US networks and data.

- Has the ability to conduct attacks on critical infrastructure, as well as to conduct influence and espionage activities.
- Responsible for multiple cyber attacks against Israeli water facilities.



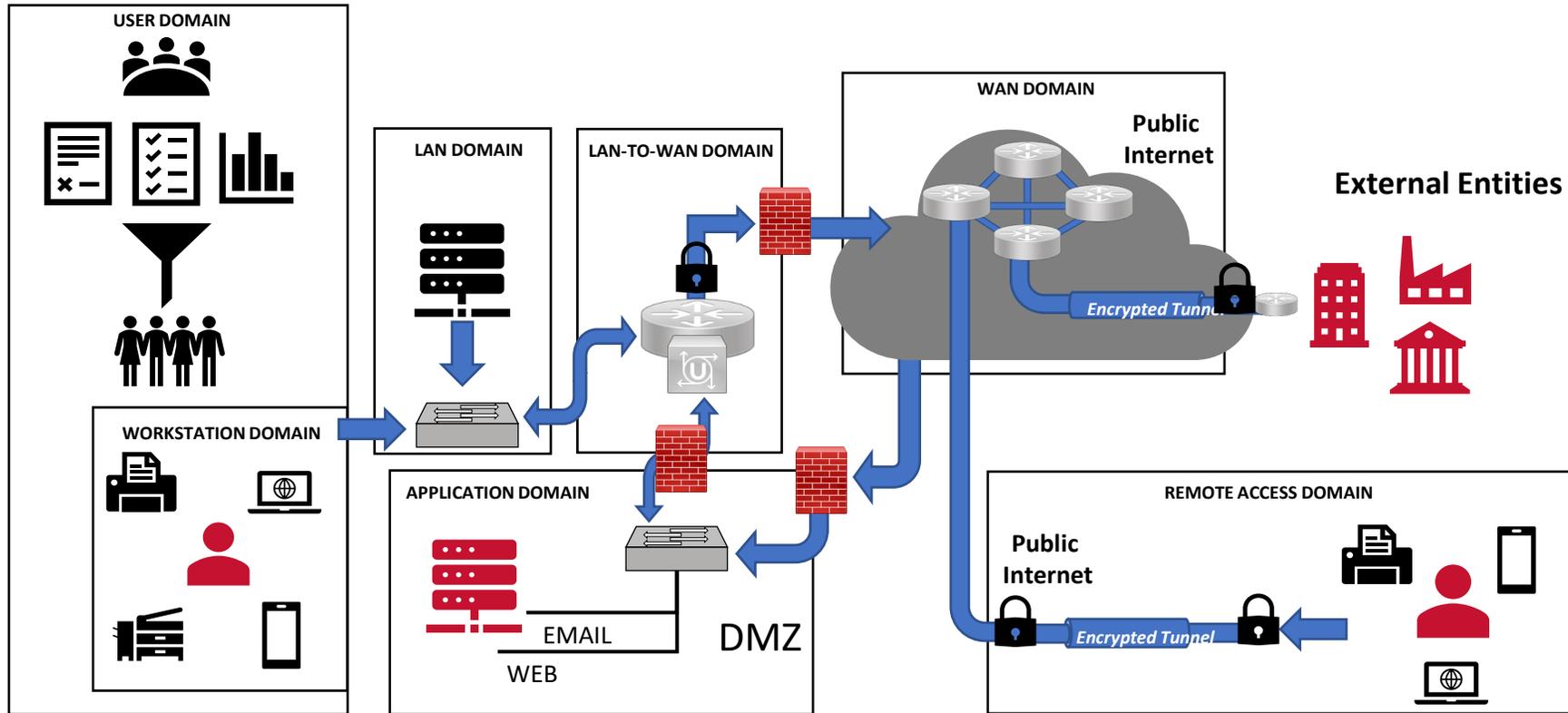
North Korea - Cyber program poses a growing espionage, theft, and attack threat.

- Possesses the expertise to cause temporary, limited disruptions of some critical infrastructure networks and disrupt business networks.
- Conducted cyber theft against financial institutions and cryptocurrency exchanges worldwide.



Cyber Attacks

ORGANIZATION IT INFRASTRUCTURE



THREAT ACTORS

Planning

- Identify target(s)

Discovery

- Identify target systems/users
- Identify vulnerabilities
- Identify exploits

Attack

- Gain access
- Maintain access
- Hide tracks
- Accomplish attack goal



Prime Targets: Vulnerable Users, Technology, and External Partners/Vendors

Social Engineering Attacks: Attacks on Vulnerable Users

Social Engineering Attacks

■ Description:

- According to NIST, **social engineering** refers to “[t]he act of deceiving an individual into revealing sensitive information, obtaining unauthorized access, or committing fraud by associating with the individual to gain confidence and trust.” **Source:** NIST SP 800-63-3 Digital Identity Guidelines

■ Threat Actor Objective:

- Manipulate a target (i.e., a user) into providing unauthorized access to information or information systems.

■ Common Threat Actor Techniques:

- Phishing (Email-Based)
- SMISHING (SMS-Based)
- VISHING (Voice-Based)
- Masquerading (In-Person/Physical)

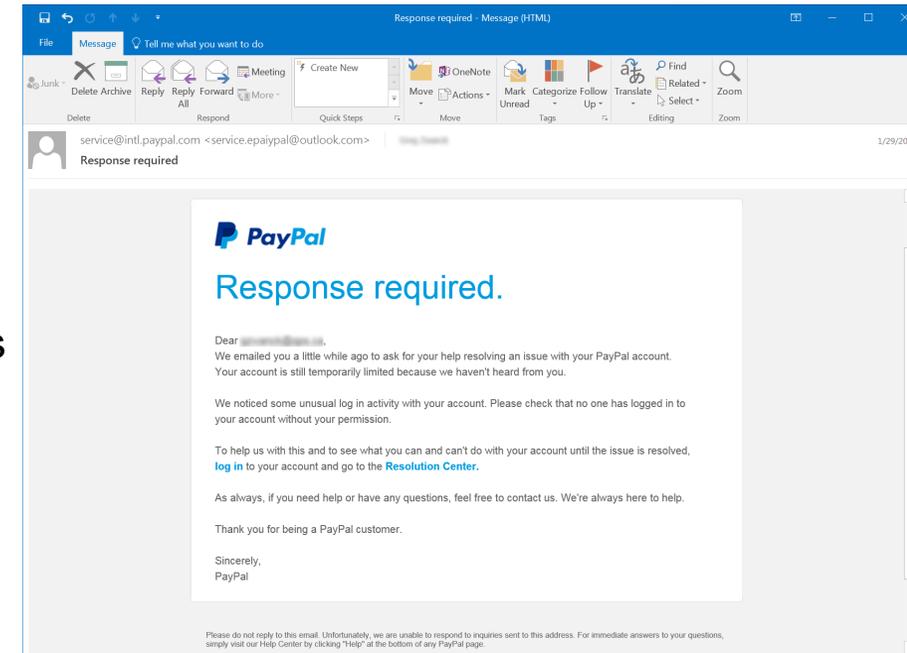


Image Source: knowbe4.com



Denial of Service Attacks: Attacks on Vulnerable Technology

Denial of Service Attacks

■ Description:

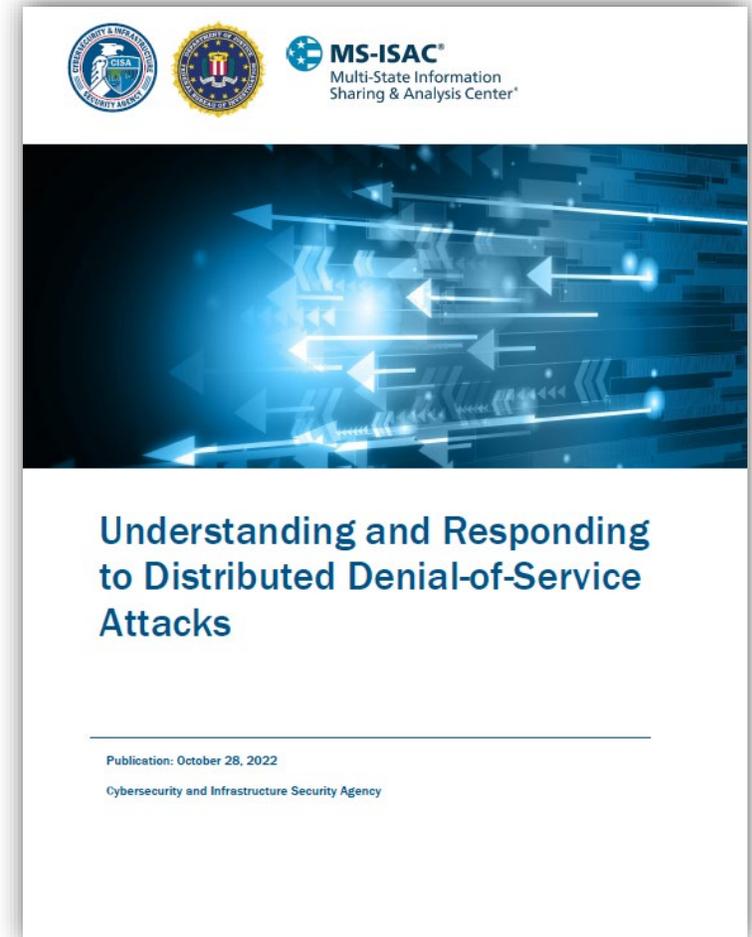
- According to CISA, **Denial of Service Attack** refers to “[a] type of cyberattack targeting a specific application or website with the goal of exhausting the target system’s resources, which, in turn, renders the target unreachable or inaccessible, denying legitimate users access to the service.” **Source:** [Understanding and Responding to Distributed Denial of Service Attacks](#) (CISA)

■ Threat Actor Objective:

- To deny legitimate access to and use of system resources.
- Often used as a distraction.

■ Common Threat Actor Techniques:

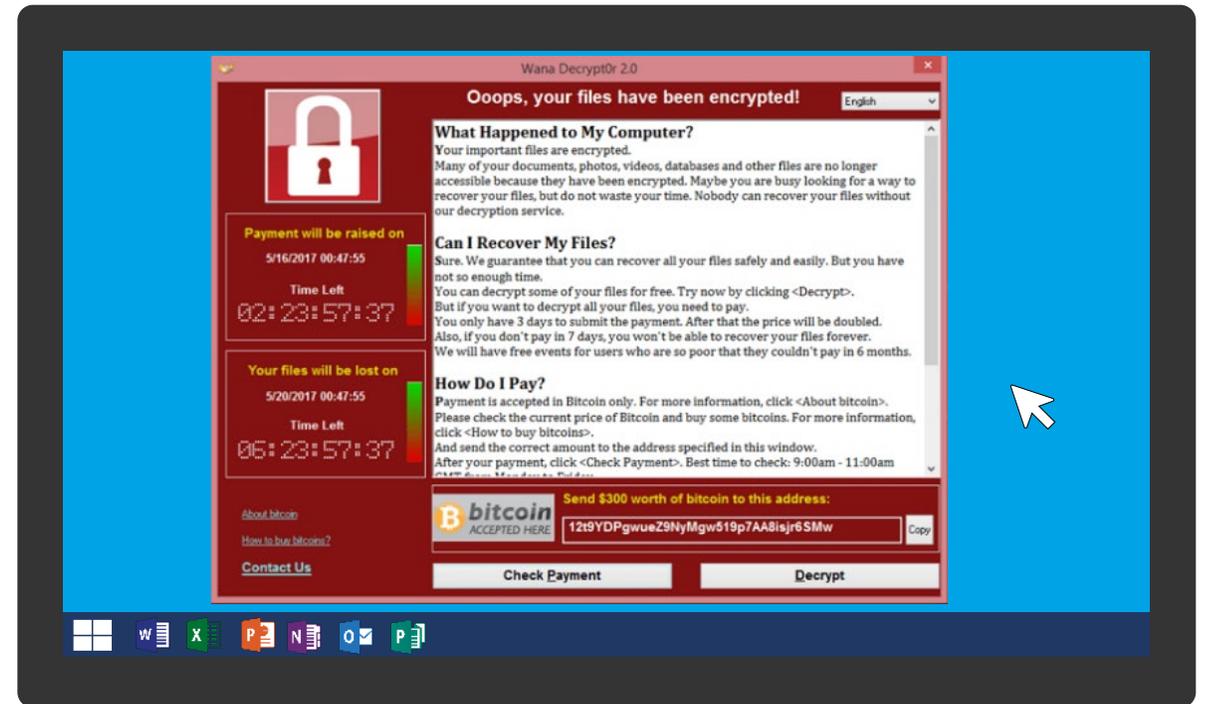
- Network resource overload
- Protocol resource overload
- Application resource overload



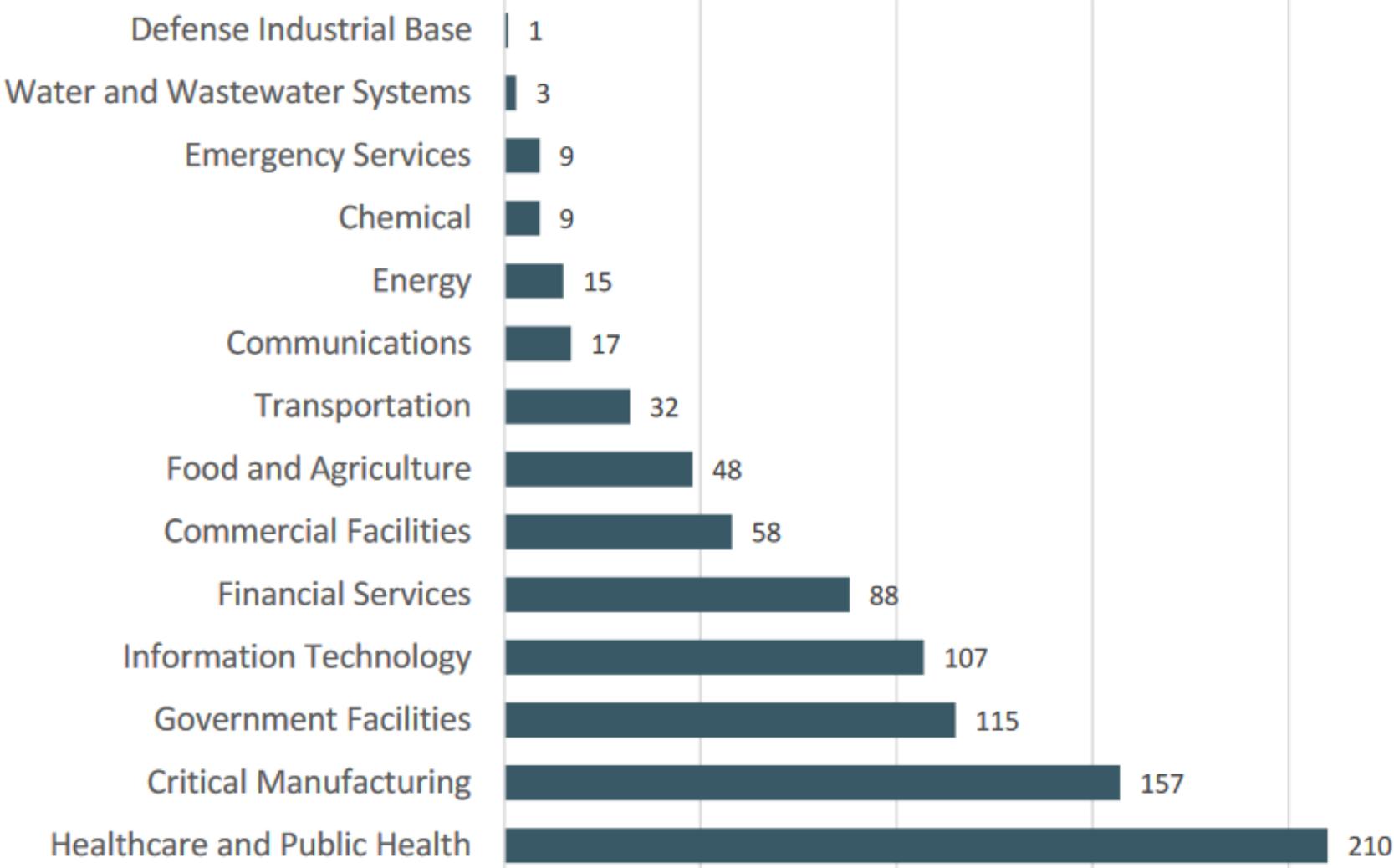
Ransomware Attacks: Attacks on Vulnerable Technology

Ransomware Attack

- **Ransomware:** the term “ransomware” refers to “a form of malware designed to encrypt files on a device, rendering any files and the systems that rely on them unusable. Malicious actors then demand ransom in exchange for decryption.” Source: [CISA Ransomware Guide 2020](#)
- **Threat Actor Objective:**
 - Hold your data for ransom
- **Common Threat Actor Techniques:**
 - Gain unauthorized access to your network
 - Compromise vulnerable users
 - Compromise vulnerable systems
 - Compromise accounts
 - Establish a foothold in your network
 - Encrypt your data and execute ransom

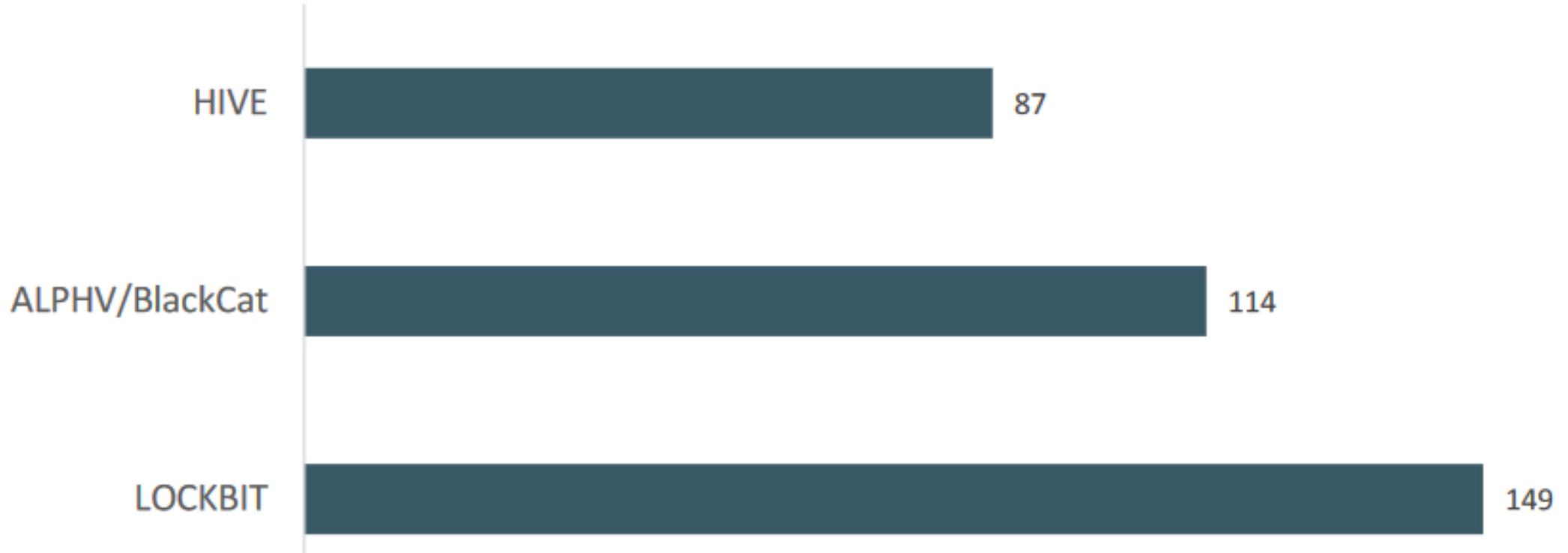


Infrastructure Sectors Victimized by Ransomware

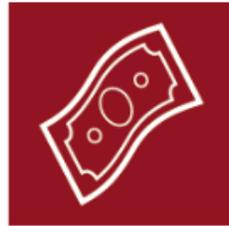


Source FBI IC3 2022 Annual Report

Top Ransomware Variants 2022 Incidents

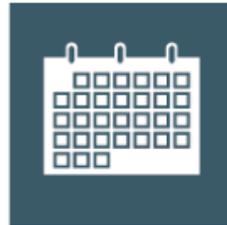


2022 Statistics



\$10.3 Billion

Victim losses in 2022



2,175+

Average complaints received daily

2021
2019
2018
2017
2016

651,800+

Average complaints received per year (last 5 years)



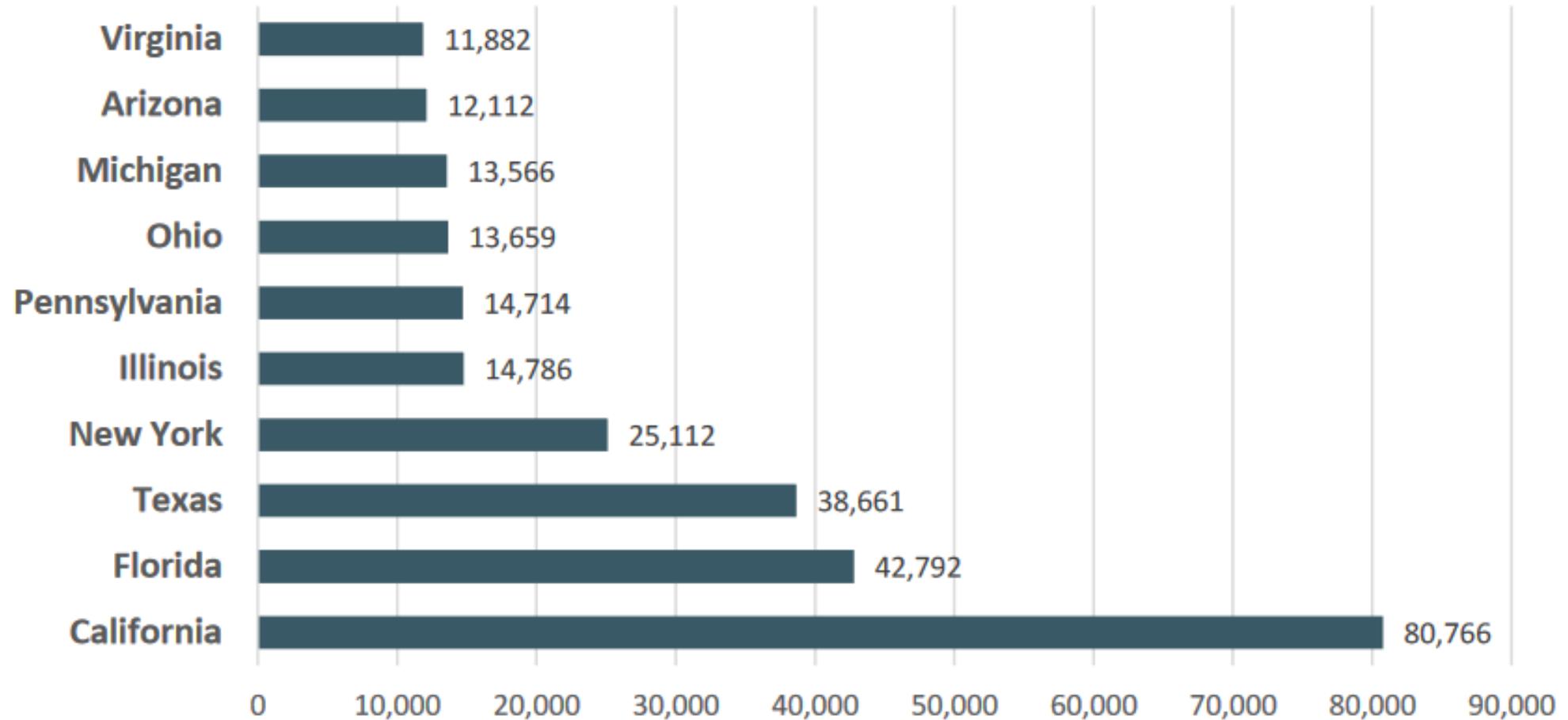
Over 7.3 Million

Complaints reported since inception

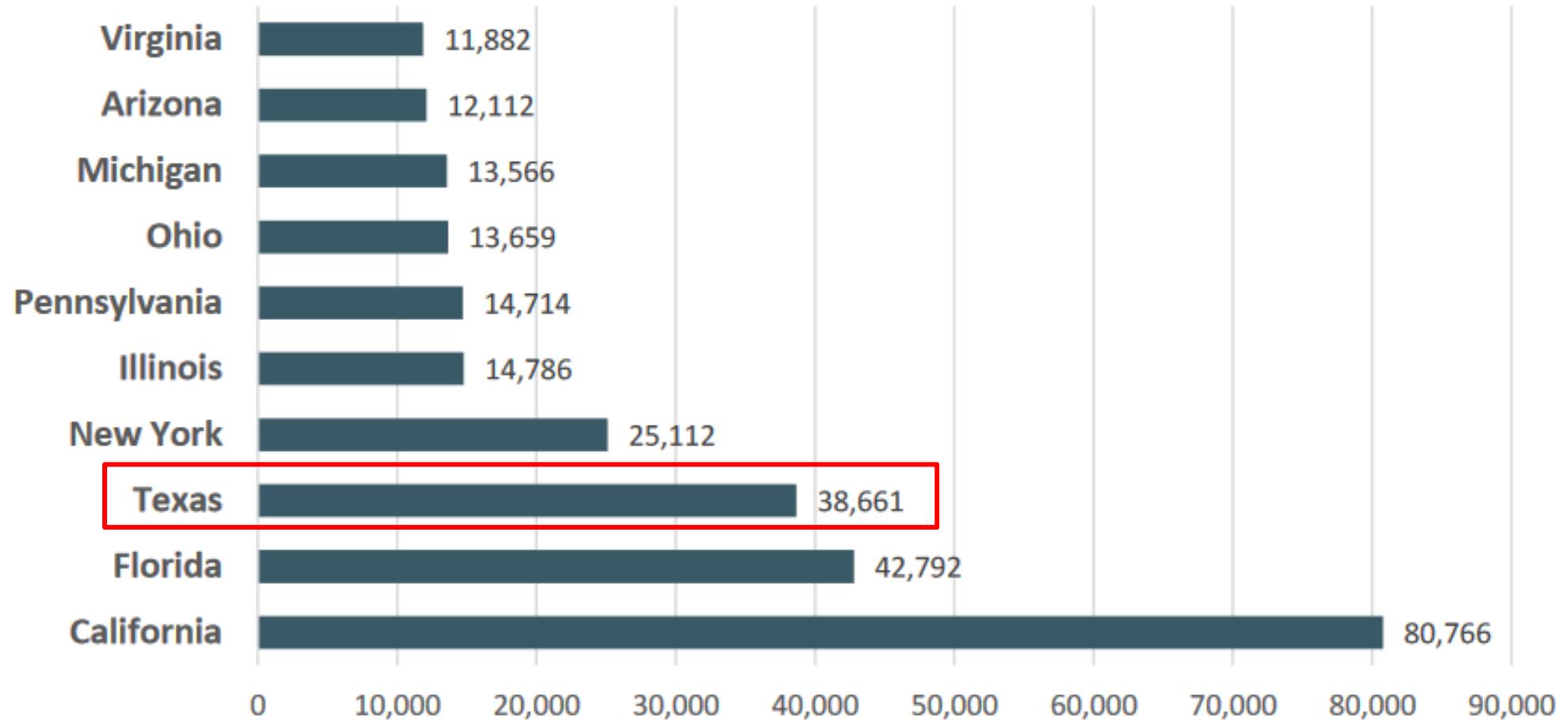


Source FBI IC3 2022 Annual Report

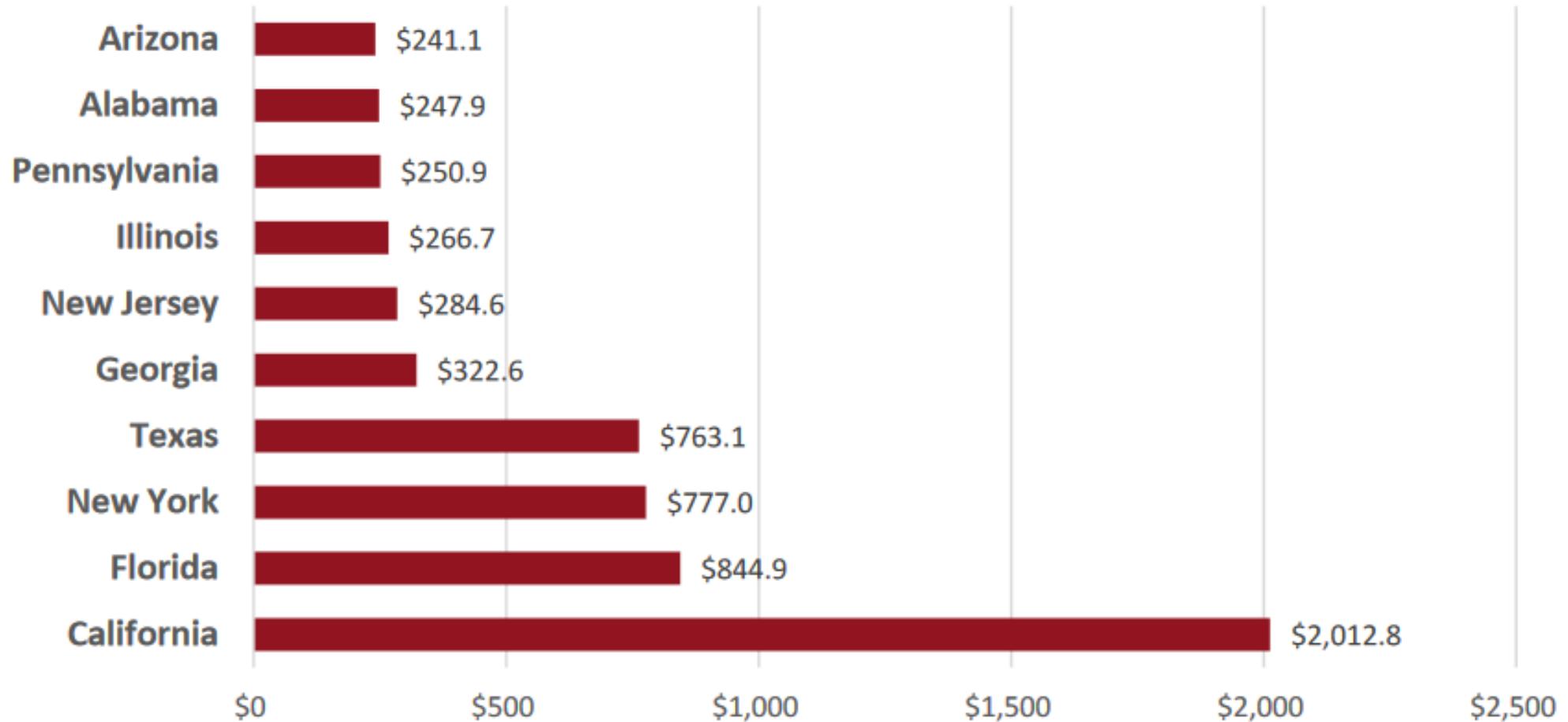
2022 – Top 10 States by Number of Victims



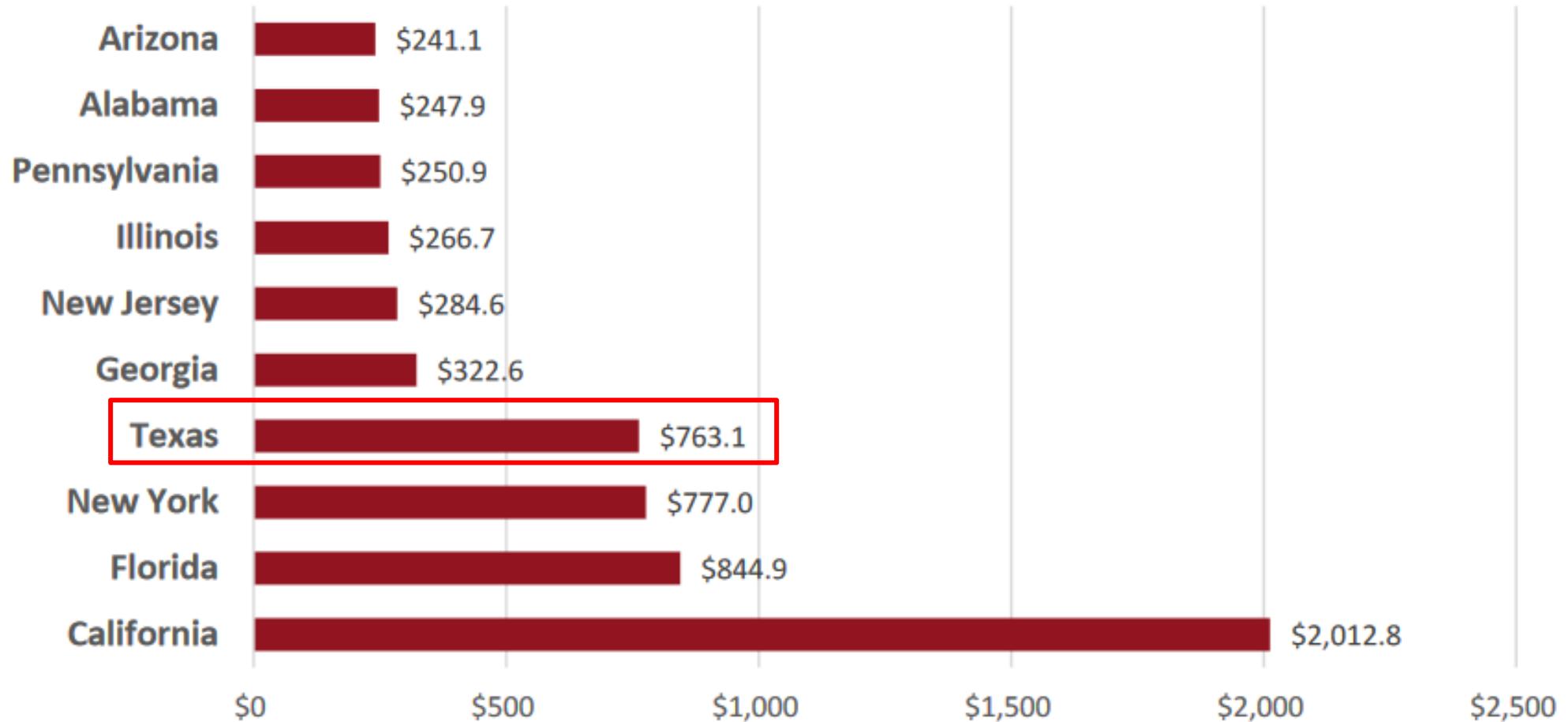
2022 – Top 10 States by Number of Victims



2022 – Top 10 States by Victim Loss (in Millions)

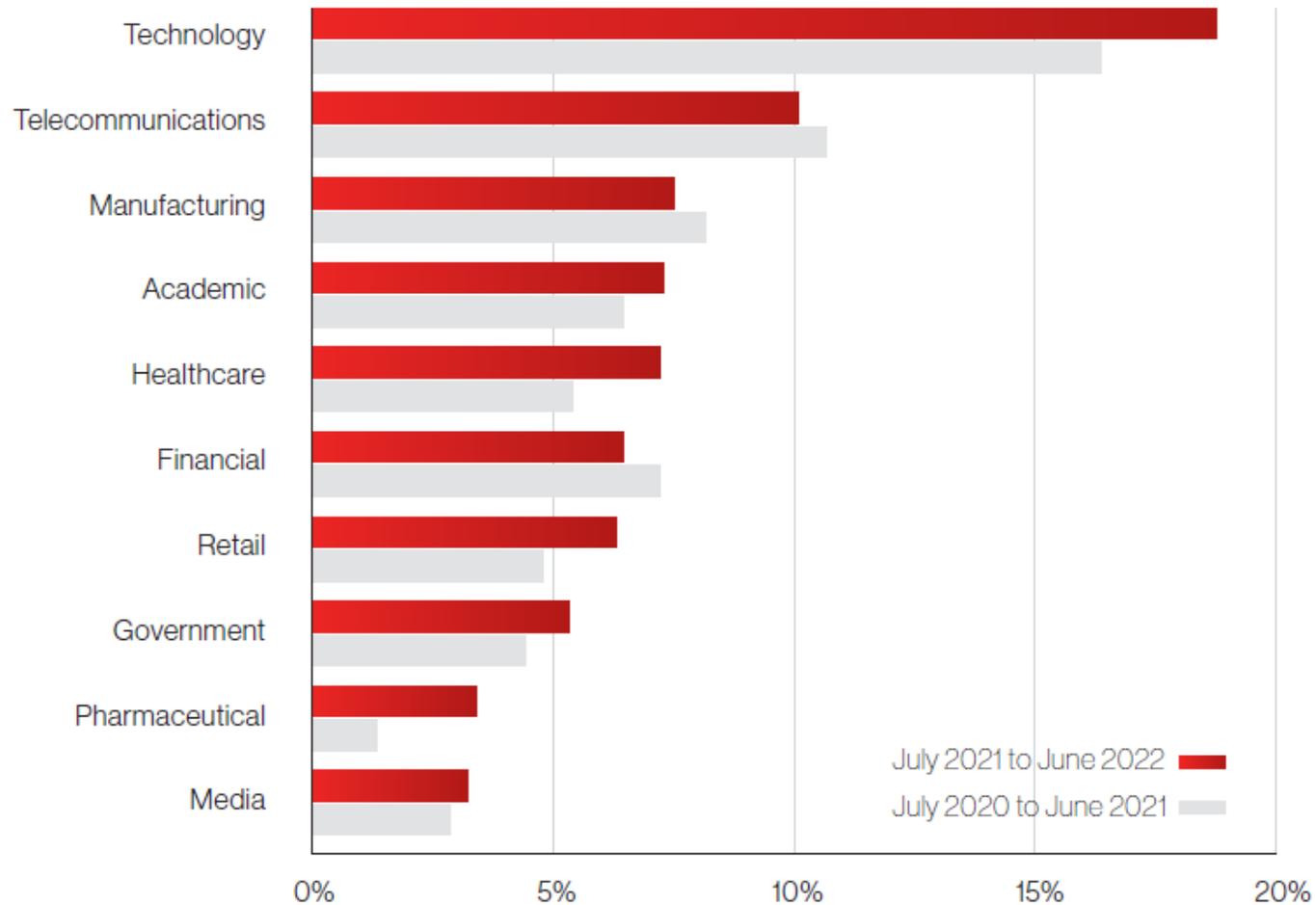


2022 – Top 10 States by Victim Loss (in Millions)



Top 10 Verticals by Intrusion Frequency

July 2021 to June 2022 vs. July 2020 to June 2021



Source FBI IC3 2022 Annual Report

Recent Cyber Attacks in Texas

North Texas Municipal Water District hit by 'cybersecurity incident'

Nov 28, 2023

WYLIE, Texas — The North Texas Municipal Water District was hit by a "cybersecurity incident," but water services have not been impacted, officials said Tuesday. The Wylie-based district, which serves water to 13 North Texas cities mostly north and northeast ...

Cyber-attack closes hospital emergency rooms in three US states

Nov 25, 2023

A cyber-attack has shut down emergency rooms in at least three states, a hospital operator warned on Monday, forcing the organization to divert patients to other facilities. Ardent Health, which oversees 30 hospitals in states across the US, including New

Cyberattack at Harris Center for Mental Health causes delays

Nov 6, 2023

Police are investigating a cyberattack against the Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD that was discovered on Tuesday. Authorities reported that the ransomware attack encrypted employee files, making them inaccessible to Harris Center staff. To prevent ...

Dallas County cyberattack claim to have stolen sensitive data

Oct 19, 2023

An international cyber hacker group is threatening to publish sensitive information it claims it stole from the Dallas County computer system unless the county pays a ransom by Friday. County officials confirmed a cyber incident was detected on Oct. 19. The county ...

City of Harlingen recovering from cyber attack

Oct 17, 2023

Phone services were restored Monday after the city of Harlingen was hit by a cyberattack that caused phone and internet services to be knocked out across all city departments. As the city works to restore service, a cybersecurity expert offers a warning to the

Cyber Attack on Greater Dallas Healthcare Enterprises, TX

Oct 2, 2023

On October 2, 2023, Greater Dallas Healthcare Enterprises ("GDHE") filed a notice of data breach with the Attorney General of Texas after discovering that an unauthorized third party gained access to an employee's email account. In this notice, GDHE



CISA CYBERSECURITY RESOURCES



CISA's No-Cost Cyber Resources

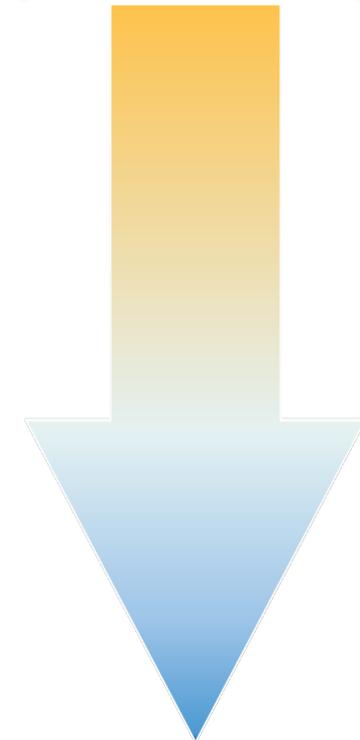


Cyber Exercise
July 24, 2024

CISA's No-Cost Cybersecurity Resources

CISA's Cybersecurity State Coordinators & Cybersecurity Advisors (CSAs)

**STRATEGIC
(HIGH-LEVEL)**



**TECHNICAL
(LOW-LEVEL)**

- **Cybersecurity Assessments**

- Baseline Assessments
 - Ransomware Readiness Assessment (RRA)
 - Cybersecurity Performance Goals (CPG)
- Intermediate Assessments
 - Cyber Infrastructure Survey (CIS)
 - Cyber Resilience Essentials (CRE)
- Advanced Assessments
 - External Dependencies Management (EDM)
 - Incident Management Review (IMR)
 - Cyber Resilience Review (CRR)

- **Cyber Hygiene Services**

- External Vulnerability Scanning Service
- Web Application Scanning Service

- **Workshops & Exercises**

- Asset Management Workshop (AMW)
- Cyber Resilience Workshop (CRW)
- Incident Management Workshop (IMW)
- Vulnerability Management Workshop (VMW)
- Digital Forensics Workshop I (DFW I)
- Digital Forensics Workshop II (DFW II)
- Cyber Tabletop Exercise (CTTX)

- **Technical Assessments***

- Remote Penetration Test (RPT)
- Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (RVA)
- Validated Architecture Design Review (VADR)

***Note:** Eligibility for technical assessments is contingent upon assessment of the stakeholder's capabilities by their Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA).



Cybersecurity State Coordinator (TX): ernesto.ballesteros@cisa.dhs.gov

CISA's No-Cost Cybersecurity Resources

CISA's Cybersecurity State Coordinators & Cybersecurity Advisors (CSAs)

STRATEGIC
(HIGH-LEVEL)

Cybersecurity Assessments

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Cyber Hygiene Services

- External Vulnerability Scanning Service
- Web Application Scanning Service

Request CISA's cybersecurity assessments to **identify your "current state" of cyber** and acquire guidance on how to improve.

Contact your CISA Cybersecurity State Coordinator (CSC) or Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) to schedule these.

TECHNICAL
(LOW-LEVEL)



Cybersecurity State Coordinator (TX): ernesto.ballesteros@cisa.dhs.gov

CISA's No-Cost Cybersecurity Resources

CISA's Cybersecurity State Coordinators & Cybersecurity Advisors (CSAs)

**STRATEGIC
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- **Cybersecurity Assessments**

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 - Incident Management Review (IMR)
 - Cyber Resilience Review (CRR)

- **Cyber Hygiene Services**

- External Vulnerability Scanning Service
- Web Application Scanning Service

Request CISA's external vulnerability scanning service to continuously **identify and address vulnerabilities on internet-facing assets!**

Contact your CISA Cybersecurity State Coordinator or Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) to get signed up!

**TECHNICAL
(LOW-LEVEL)**



Cybersecurity State Coordinator (TX): ernesto.ballesteros@cisa.dhs.gov

CISA's No-Cost Cybersecurity Resources

CISA's Cybersecurity State Coordinators & Cybersecurity Advisors (CSAs)

Build new or mature existing cyber capabilities with our workshops.

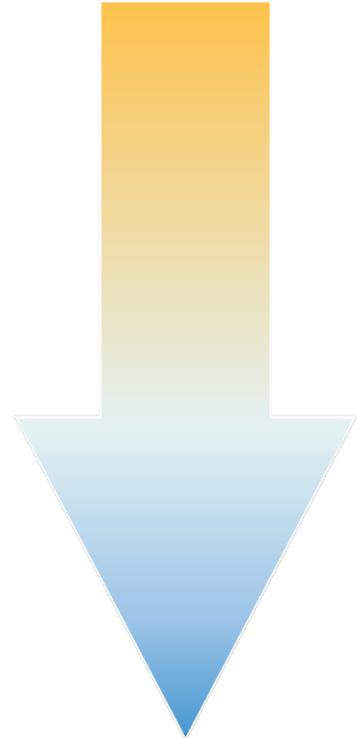
Exercise your incident response, business continuity, and disaster recovery plans with our Cyber Tabletop Exercise.

Contact your CISA Cybersecurity State Coordinator (CSC) or Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) to schedule these.

Workshops & Exercises

- Asset Management Workshop (AMW)
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**STRATEGIC
(HIGH-LEVEL)**



**TECHNICAL
(LOW-LEVEL)**

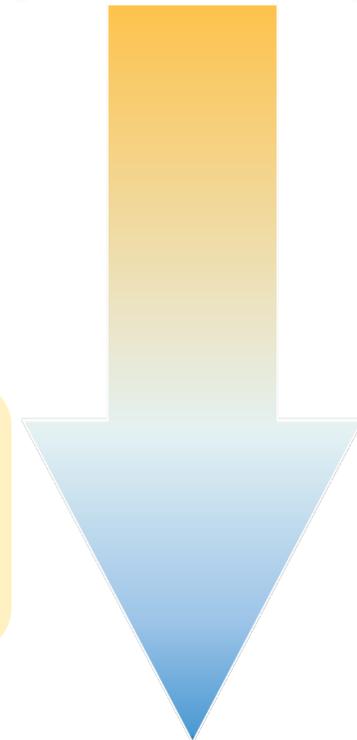


Cybersecurity State Coordinator (TX): ernesto.ballesteros@cisa.dhs.gov

CISA's No-Cost Cybersecurity Resources

CISA's Cybersecurity State Coordinators & Cybersecurity Advisors (CSAs)

**STRATEGIC
(HIGH-LEVEL)**



**TECHNICAL
(LOW-LEVEL)**

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- Baseline Assessments
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- **Technical Assessments***

- Remote Penetration Test (RPT)
- Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (RVA)
- Validated Architecture Design Review (VADR)

Work with your CISA Cybersecurity State Coordinator (CSC) or Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) to assess eligibility for our technical assessments, including the RPT, RVA, VADR, and more.

***Note:** Eligibility for technical assessments is contingent upon assessment of the stakeholder's capabilities by their Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA).



Cybersecurity State Coordinator (TX): ernesto.ballesteros@cisa.dhs.gov

Next Steps

Forming a Partnership with CISA on Cybersecurity Matters



Next Steps: CISA Cyber Partnership

Would you like to know more about CISA's **no-cost** cyber resources and partnership opportunities?

Next Steps:

1. Contact your CISA Regional Office (CISARegion6@cisa.dhs.gov);
2. Request to schedule initial Cyber Protective Visit (CPV) from your Cybersecurity Advisor (CSA) or Cybersecurity State Coordinator (CSC); and
3. Meet with your CSA/CSC and discuss how they can provide these assessments, workshops, exercises, and technical services for your organization.



Email: todd.vasilou@cisa.dhs.gov

CISA Regions: <https://www.cisa.gov/cisa-regions>

CISA Regions 6: CISARegion6@cisa.dhs.gov



CISA REGION 6

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CISA Region 6

CISARegion6@cisa.dhs.gov

CISA INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM

<https://us-cert.cisa.gov/forms/report>

CISA CENTRAL - 24/7 Watch

(888) 282-0870; report@cisa.gov

FBI's 24/7 Cyber Watch (CyWatch)

(855) 292-3937; CyWatch@fbi.gov