



August FY2015 | DIR OCISO | DIRSECURITY@DIR.TEXAS.GOV

DIR Cybersecurity Insight Newsletter

Cyber Security Awareness Month

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM), and the State of Texas is joining with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its partners across the country to highlight the importance of cybersecurity and online safety.

To make it easy to participate and share tips throughout the month, DHS has created this NCSAM Partner Packet with ideas to help you get started and basic language to use in your communications. Engaging now will increase the impact of your NCSAM efforts, and we encourage you to share these resources with other individuals within your organization.

We have divided the packet into four sections:

- Section 1 – Planning for NCSAM discusses the planning aspects involved in NCSAM. This section includes a timeline for preparation, along with a checklist of tasks to help NCSAM run smoothly.
- Section 2 – Sample Language is a compilation of sample language you can use in your agency or community. Samples include wording for announcements, signature text, website language, emails, and social media posts.
- Section 3 – Sample Articles builds upon the language – these are sample articles to be used in newsletters. These articles are based on the weekly themes in the packet and include user tips.
- Section 4 – Interactive Ideas discusses other ideas that can be used during NCSAM to promote awareness. These interactive ideas can reach your audience in unique and meaningful way

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DIR OCISO Security Services Announcement

The Texas DIR Office of the Chief Information Security Officer (OCISO) currently offers several services to public sector organizations, providing tools and information to help improve the security posture for the State of Texas.

Two of these services, Gartner Decision Support (research licenses, SME availability, and monthly webinars) and the InfoSec Academy, are nearing the end of their contracts (the contracts are valid through the end of Fiscal Year 2015). The OCISO is working diligently to renew these contracts and minimize the impact to users; however, the contract renewal process changed during the last legislative session.

Because of the changes in law by Senate Bill (SB) 20, these contracts will most likely not be renewed by September 1, which will result in a minimal service gap. For consumers of these services, this means that as of September 1, the Gartner Decision Support will be temporarily unavailable until new contracts have been awarded. In addition, the InfoSec Academy LMS may be unavailable for a short time.

We will continue to send updates as soon as they are available via the ISO, Security, and IRM mailing lists and the CyberSecurity Insight newsletter. We hope to have these services back in place as quickly as possible.

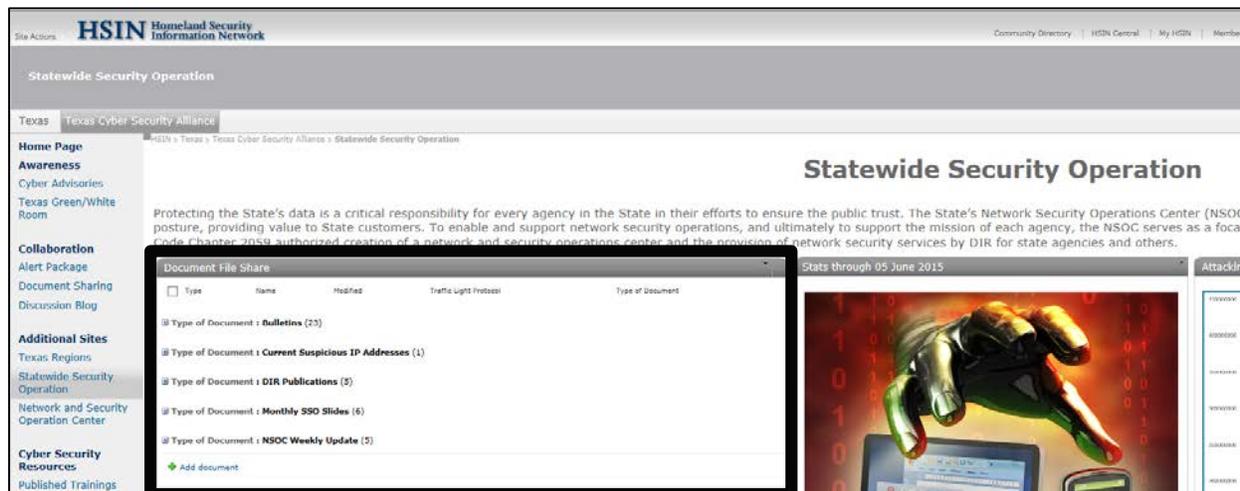
If you have questions, contact Claudia Escobar at Claudia.escobar@dir.texas.gov. Thank you for your patience, and stay tuned for more information.

If you have other questions, contact DIRSecurity@dir.texas.gov.



Network Security Operations Center (NSOC)

The NSOC is continually improving the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) site to make it more appealing and useful to users. Two sections worth noting contain current and useful information for our Statewide Security Operation (SSO) members. Both of these sections can be viewed directly on the HIN SSO homepage.

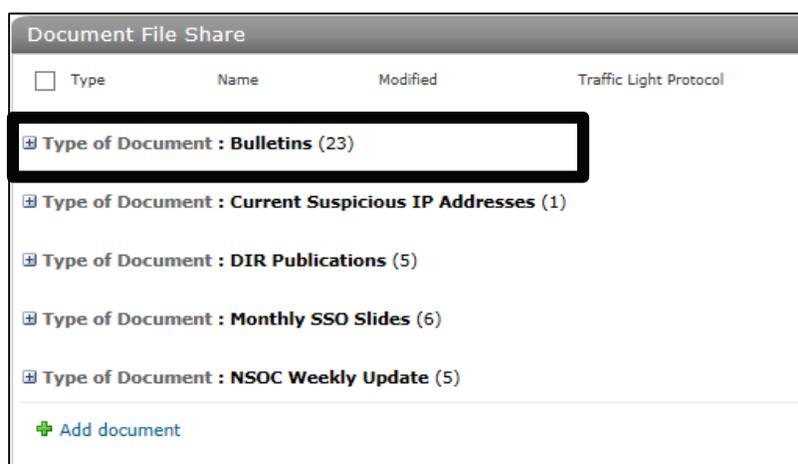


Bulletins

The NSOC posts all bulletins with a [Traffic Light Protocol \(TLP\)](#) of Green that can be shared with our user community. The NSOC receives bulletins from entities such as:

- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Center for Internet Security (CIS)
- US Computer Emergency Response Team (US-CERT)
- Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)
- Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC)

These bulletins can be found on the home page under the Document File Share section.



NSOC Weekly Updates

The NSOC also posts weekly updates on various topics for information security and infrastructure professionals. Topics include current issues that have or could potentially have an effect on the state infrastructure.

These updates can also be found on the main page, under the Document File Share Section.

Type	Name	Modified	Traffic Light Protocol	Type of Document
Type of Document : Bulletins (23)				
Type of Document : Current Suspicious IP Addresses (1)				
Type of Document : DIR Publications (5)				
Type of Document : Monthly SSO Slides (6)				
Type of Document : NSOC Weekly Update (5)				
	Large Scale PII Breaches	/3/2015 1:40 PM	Green	NSOC Weekly Update
	Website Defacements	/3/2015 1:40 PM	Green	NSOC Weekly Update
	Click Fraud	/3/2015 1:40 PM	Green	NSOC Weekly Update
	Network Trust Rules For Pen Testers	/3/2015 1:42 PM	Green	NSOC Weekly Update
	The Homeland Security Info Net	/3/2015 1:42 PM	Green	NSOC Weekly Update



Jeremy Wilson

Network Security Operations Center Security Manager

Information Security Officer Spotlight

Daniel Owen, CISSP, RHCE
Chief Information Security Officer
Texas State University

I started in 1999 as a student worker for Sam Houston State University's central IT department. They were looking to foster a home-grown Linux administration environment for students. I began to dabble in Linux in high school, and was excited to expand my skills. After graduation I was hired by SHSU, and began honing my skills in enterprise systems and storage administration. In 2007, I moved to Austin and took a position with Texas State University. I moved through the ranks at Texas State into a Technology Architect and Assistant Director role. In January 2014, I officially moved into a security specific role, and became CISO in June 2015.

How did you come to the security field?

Due to my background in systems administration and architecture, security has always been baked into my process. In my initial systems administration role at Texas State, I spearheaded efforts to ensure security was a consideration beyond the perimeter. You have to look inward to find the real challenges. In early 2014, the university was in need of security-minded staff with technical expertise to support the IT security team, and it was the right fit for both Texas State and myself. I moved to the team, becoming ISO in August 2014 and CISO in June 2015.

Tell us how information security has changed since you started in your role.

Security used to be an add-on to your job; now it's a vast industry with multi-faceted regulations, laws and threats.

Who are your users/customers, and what is one of the most challenging areas for you?

We provide services for a very diverse group of users including students, faculty, staff, visitors, contractors; the list goes on. The most challenging component facing a security professional in higher education is playing the balancing act of providing a secure and reduced attack surface while not impeding academic freedom and openness of information. While Texas State has a relatively centralized IT division, new initiatives and projects arise every day that require a security review. It's never a dull day, to say the least.



How did you learn about Texas State University?

I had already developed a solid working relationship with Texas State prior to working for them. I was employed at a sister institution, Sam Houston State University, which is a member of the Texas State University System (TSUS) along with Texas State. The technical staff across the TSUS system have several system-wide teams that work to benefit system initiatives.

What do you like best about your job?

You know that Liam Neeson quote from Taken about having a very particular set of skills? I'm like that, but in the context of security for Texas State.

What would people never guess you do in your role?

Outside of my security duties, I perform a technical architect role for Texas State's HPC and Research Computing initiatives. We are currently designing the 4th generation high performance compute cluster.

What other career would you have liked to pursue?

How do I get Anthony Bourdain's job?

Have you ever changed career paths?

I have a Bachelor of Fine Arts. Yes, a younger and more naive me thought I was going to be an artist. Although I was completing my Bachelor's, my jobs were in technology and I realized I didn't want to be a starving artist.

What has been the greatest challenge that you have faced, and how did you resolve it?

Learning how to manage people. Computers do exactly what you tell them to; people do a variation of that. I came to understand that, while some people do things differently or at a different pace than others, they all get the job done, which is what matters.

Tell us about your most proud accomplishment.

Texas State has two data centers for primary services. However, when I started working there, they weren't redundant. I spearheaded the effort to make them true active-active data centers that can survive a loss of a single data center without loss of service to the end user.

Top 3 life highlights?

Scuba diving the Bay Islands of Honduras, traveling through Europe on my honeymoon, and marrying my beautiful wife.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in McKinney, TX, and moved to Tomball, TX right before I started high school.

Do you have family in Austin?

My wife and I live in Buda, and the rest of the family is split between the DFW and Houston areas.

What are your hobbies?

Scuba diving, shooting, poker and travel. I don't do any of them as much as I'd like.

People would be surprised to know that you....

I can make a mean lasagna.

Any favorite line from a movie?

"It's a UNIX system! I know this!" – Jurassic Park

Are you messy or organized?

I have highly organized messes that I alphabetize, label, and file into neat stacks.

Favorite travel spot?

Most recently it was Barcelona, but anywhere in Europe is fine by me.

What was the last book you read?

Michael Crichton's *State of Fear*, and Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*.

What CD do you have in your car?

No CD's here, it's 2015 and I no longer own a computer with an optical drive. Most recently, I've been listening to Alabama Shakes or Old Crow Medicine Show.

If you could interview one person (dead or alive) who would it be?

Terry Pratchett

If you had to eat one meal, every day for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Chicken fried steak with green beans and gravy and a cheeseburger (That counts as one meal, easily found at the nearest Dan's Hamburgers). However, if I chose this option, the rest of my life probably wouldn't be very long.

Least favorite food?

Black eyed peas or beets. Gross.

If given a chance, who would you like to be for a day?

Indiana Jones.

If you were to write a book about yourself, what would you name it?

I have no idea, it seems a bit egotistical to write a book about myself.

Describe what you were like at age 10.

Probably barefoot, dirty, and running around with a stick in the woods.

What is one thing you couldn't live without?

A good single malt scotch; preferably an islay.

What is your hidden talent?

I can juggle.

What is the best advice you have received and that you have used?

Trust, but verify.

What would be your advice for a new security professional?

Security is about people. Educating your users will always be the hardest part of the job, and your users will always be the weakest link in your defenses

Texas State is the fourth-largest university in Texas, with over 36,000 students and 3,700 faculty and staff. It has recently been classified as an emerging research institution.

Program Updates

Texas InfoSec Academy

Online Texas Security Policy & Assurance Course to be Offered Soon

The InfoSec Academy will soon be offering an online version of the Texas Security Policy & Assurance course. CISOs and ISOs of state agencies and institutions of higher education are encouraged to take this course. This four hour course is designed to prepare attendees to apply the Texas rules regarding information security within their organizations. The course covers Texas rules and regulations, data classification, the Texas Cybersecurity Framework, agency security plans, and reports. You can enroll in this course via the [InfoSec Academy LMS](#). This course will be available prior to 8/31/2015.

Do you have a seat in the academy? Email us to find your access.

Archer Incidents News

DIR is pleased to announce that the Archer Information Technology Risk Assessment System is now live. This is the replacement for the ISAAC risk assessment system which we previously provided to agencies and higher education institutions. The assessment offered through this system is based on NIST 800-53.

System access and training is available at <http://dir.texas.gov/View-About-DIR/Information-Security/Pages/Content.aspx?id=136#risk>.

To get a userid or to add this system to your current Archer access, please contact GRC at grc@dir.texas.gov. We also have templates for bulk uploading users.

Thank you for your participation as we roll out the Archer Risk Assessment System.

Insight from our Texas CISO

As summer vacations come to a close, it's time to start ramping up for Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Each October we have the opportunity to leverage the collective efforts of state and federal resources to help educate our co-workers, friends, and family. These efforts can be established and structured or creative and individual. Agencies have held panel discussions, engaged cybersecurity speakers, hosted barbecues, and used many other inventive ways to attract the attention of both end users, executive staff, and even their communities.

Resources are available to help make your security awareness month campaign shine:

- The National Initiative for Cybersecurity Careers and Studies offers weekly themes that can help structure a Cybersecurity Awareness Month program at <https://niccs.us-cert.gov/home/national-cyber-security-awareness-month-2015>. This information can also be found on the [DIR website](#) – see the front page article for more information.
- The Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) provides DIR with security awareness posters and calendars that we are happy to share with agencies.



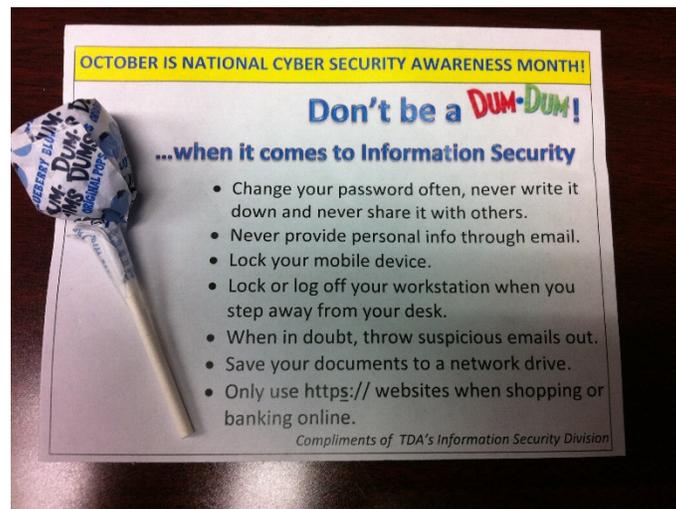
*Eddie Block
CISO, State of Texas*

DIR offers services that can help to develop or grow your security awareness program, including SANS Securing the Human end user awareness training and the InfoSec Academy for ISO and security analyst level training. My staff or I are also available to speak at your events.

However, the activities in October do not have to be so staid and formal. Angela Gower, ISO at Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA), has provided valuable tips to users through the use of candy and creative wording.

Combining something like this simple handout with instruction, like those provided in the Securing the Human security awareness modules, can deliver a strong push in this important month and beyond.

Users are an agency's greatest asset, but they can also be their greatest vulnerability. Security awareness month activities should be a component of a robust, year-round program to promote secure behavior both in the cyber world and in the physical world.



*Eddie Block
CISO, State of Texas*

Events

Training and Conferences around the State

2015 Save the Dates

- [InnoTech Austin](#), October 8
- [LASCON 2015](#), October 19 – 22
- [Dallas Secure World](#), October 28 – 29, 2015
- [BSides Dallas](#), November 7



Feedback, comments, stories, etc.
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State of Texas