

Cyber Security Environment

Government of Alberta

Who are the Threat Actors

What is the Threat?

Is the Threat To GoA Real?

What Strategies Mitigate the Threats?

Mitigation Activities Or Initiatives



Internal Staff

Lack of cyber threat awareness often results in accidental loss of data confidentiality, integrity or availability when users either reveal secure information or personal credentials.
GOAL: None (accidental)

188 cyber security incidents due to user errors in 2015

16% GoA users "clicked" on 2015 Email Phishing test

24% GoA users took online security training in 2015

1) Hardening of the GoA's Cyber Security Posture

Operation Activities

- MSS Transition
- Improved Monitoring
- IMT Incident Response Plan
- GoA InfoSec Framework

Initiatives/Projects

- Cyber Security Toolset
- CISO Service Catalog
- Facilitation of InfoSec Framework Compliance
- IT DRP Improvements
- IT Security Risk Management Improvements



Natural Disaster

Natural disasters are random events that cannot be predicted impacting IT services availability (eg: events such as power outages or critical events such as tornadoes or floods.)
GOAL: None (random)

212 Critical apps
180 Vital apps (too high!)

72% of Critical and Vital have DRPs (too low!)

50% of Critical and Vital DRPs recently tested (too low!)

2) Increasing Information Stakeholders Awareness

Operation Activities

- Cyber Security Part of Performance Contract
- E-Learning required yearly
- Email Phishing Tests

Initiatives/Projects

- New In-Class Cyber Security Training for GoA staff
- Upgrade of E-Learning and other online material
- New In-Class MISO training



Hacktivist

Hacktivist look for confidential information to reveal to the outside world or perform website defacing.
GOAL: To shame the organization

2.6B denied FW connections from 147K unique IPs in 2015

Top country of origin - denied connections: China (15%)

Gov. of BC website was defaced by "Anonymous" in 2014

3) Shifting Security Posture from Reactive to Proactive

Operation Activities

- Cyber Security Ops report
- Cyber Intelligence report
- Tighter interactions with NCSIP, CCIRC and ASSIST
- Security Clearance Level 2

Initiatives/Projects

- Develop Cloud Access Security Framework
- New Cyber Threat Intelligence Services
- Update and formalize Info Sec Risk Management



Cyber Criminal

Criminals have found a safe medium to commit crimes anonymously, and make money. Crimes include fraud, identity theft, ransomware, and many other activities. Sometimes internal.
GOAL: To make a profit

Nov to Jan: 23 PC ransomware, cost impact: \$150K

90% of GoA emails (>500M) blocked annually

Nov to Jan: 694 ransomware blocked



Cyber Spy

Trade secrets and other confidential information that could give an edge to a competitor or provide political advantages is the ultimate goal of cyber spies.
GOAL: To gain competitive edge

World Govs travel to China using separate throw-away devices

Denied external connections also attributed to this

"Hacker Hunting": SQL Injection attempts (2 China IP)



Cyber Terrorist

Terrorists cyber attacks aim at taking control of systems causing service interruptions or disruptions, resulting in serious threats to human lives. Blackmail is another related threat.
GOAL: To scare or hurt people

US Homeland reports ransomware used for funding

Denied external connections also attributed to this

Threat of hacking SCADA systems too serious to ignore

Corporate Information Security Office (CISO)
Government of Alberta



Cyber Security Program Question?
Contact: ciso@gov.ab.ca

