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- Developed and manage various local government websites (Townships/Boroughs/Orgs)

Triscari

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Local Government's Cybersecurity

Overview

- Secure Passwords/Practices
- Malware
- Safe Computing
- Online Scams
- Website Security

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Local Government's Cybersecurity

Overview

How frequently are local governments under cyberattack?

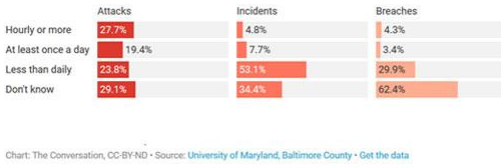

Chart: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND • Source: University of Maryland, Baltimore County • Get the data

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Local Government's Cybersecurity

Secure Passwords/Practices

- Use a minimum of 10 symbols, including numbers, both uppercase and lowercase letters, and special symbols.
- Change your password periodically (every 90-180 days)
- Avoid Easy-to-guess passwords, especially "password“
- Avoid your name, the name of your spouse or partner's name, pets, children
- A string of numbers or letters like “1234” or “abcd”, or simple patterns of letters on the keyboard, like “asdfg”

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Local Government's Cybersecurity

Secure Passwords/Practices

- Do not write it down where it can be found in office
- Do not let others watch as you type a password in
- Lock screen with a password prompt after X amount of minutes when you are away from your computer
- Do not use same password across all accounts
- Consider use of a password app or program (Zoho Vault, 1Password)

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Local Government's Cybersecurity

Malware

Malware = software that is specifically designed to disrupt, damage, or gain unauthorized access to a computer system.

- Spam emails / links
- Infected removable drives
- Bundled with other software
- Hacked or compromised webpages

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Local Government's Cybersecurity

Malware

Malware/Anti-Virus Programs:

- Bitdefender Antivirus Free Edition
- AVG AntiVirus Free
- Malwarebytes Anti-Malware

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Local Government's Cybersecurity

Safe Computing

- Strong Password Policies
- Update Operating System (continuously)
- Update All Software
- Install Anti-Virus Software
- Backup Data on a Regular Basis
- Control Access to Your Computer
- Protect Sensitive Data
- Use Secure Connections

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Local Government's Cybersecurity

Online Scams

Phishing Email Scams - More than one third of all security incidents start with phishing emails or malicious attachments sent to company employees, according to a report from F-Secure.

- Tip 1: Don't trust the display name
- Tip 2: Look but don't click
- Tip 3: Check for spelling mistakes
- Tip 4: Analyze the salutation
- Tip 5: Don't give up personal information
- Tip 6: Beware of urgent or threatening language in the subject line
- Tip 7: Review the signature
- Tip 8: If at all questionable, don't click on attachments

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Local Government's Cybersecurity

Website Security

95% of breached records came from only three industries in 2016
Government, retail, and technology. The reason isn't necessarily because those industries are less diligent in their protection of customer records. They're just very popular targets because of the high level of personal identifying information contained in their records.

There is a hacker attack every 39 seconds
Affecting one in three Americans every year.

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Local Government's Cybersecurity

Website Security

- Use HTTPS / (SSL Certificate)
- Keep your website platform and software up-to-date
- Install security plugins, when possible (WordPress – iThemes Security and Bulletproof Security)
- Make sure your passwords are secure
- Protect from database / SQL injection hacks
- Lock down your directory and file permissions
- Keep everything clean (remove any dated or old files, pages, etc.)
- Backup data consistently
- Scan for vulnerabilities

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Local Government's Cybersecurity

What You Should Consider

- Formal, written cybersecurity policies, standards, strategies, and plans
- Scanning / Testing of systems
- Risk Assessment
- Technical Security Review
- Audit of Practices
- Staff Training
- Periodic Re-Assessments

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Local Government's Cybersecurity

What You Should Consider

A helpful starting planning guide for cybersecurity:

https://www.fcc.gov/cyberplanner

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Questions?

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THANK YOU!

For More Information or Consultation:

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