Meeting 02
March 20, 2024

Attendees

Members – Bold and *Italics* attended

Denise Reilly-Hughes	*David Kaiser*	*Erica Ferland*
Joe Duncan	~~Nate Couture~~	*Eric Hillmuth*
Eric Forand	~~Shawn Loan~~	~~Gregory C. Knight~~
James Layman	*Sue Fritz*	*Hazel Kreider on behalf of General Knight*

Invited Guests – Bold and *Italics* attended

John Zanin	*Michelle Anderson*	*Shawn Nailor*
Jon Kelley	*AJ Van Tassel*	*Jason Galipeau*

Public – None

Agenda

- Review last meeting recap – any corrections or clarifications - *Done*

- Web Site and SharePoint Review – what's available and how it is organized - *Done*

- Executive Session Definition - approve a definition of what will initiate an Executive Session for the Council. – *Discussion on need to include language related to the sharing of information about specific cybersecurity environments. Michelle Anderson and Shawn Nailor to work on a revised proposal for the May meeting.*

- o Proposed starting language - Any items being discussed, material reviewed, or updates provided that could expose a specific entity; or information deemed confidential; shall warrant the council entering executive session.

- o Example from statute for public records exemption:

  - § 317. Definitions; public agency; public records and documents; exemptions

    - (c) The following public records are exempt from public inspection and copying:

    - (25) Passwords, access codes, user identifications, security procedures, and similar information, the disclosure of which would threaten the safety of persons or the security of public property.

- Review Draft Survey – approve for an April release – *Reviewed and edited during the meeting.*

- Review Survey Introduction Letter – pre-survey letter introducing it and asking for contact information – should go out the last week of March – *No longer needed due to method of survey distribution.*

- Review Survey Cover Letter – letter to go with the survey - *No longer needed due to method of survey distribution.*

- Sector Contacts – please share any contact information you may have for your sector – *Use of Vermont Information Center distribution negates the need to collect contact information.*

- Web site resources – do we want to start offering resources on the council site - *Tabled*

  - o IT Retainer contracts – been asked who could help small organizations, these companies are registered in the state and have agreed to State contracting requirements.

  - o Cyber Readiness Institute – Free small to medium size business/organization cyber program

  - o Where to start handout – Cybersecurity Roadmap

- Collaboration Pilot – how can CI organizations have a common area to exchange information - *Tabled*

  - o Microsoft Teams pilot hosted by the State of Vermont

     o   Propose starting with the Council members plus 5 others from each sector and the state entity regulating each sector

- Questions and Open Discussion - *None*

Outcomes

Motions

Motion to approve the survey as revised during the meeting. Motion made by David Kaiser, seconded by Sue Fritz and Eric Hillmuth. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion to adjourn, motion made by David Kaiser, seconded by Sue Fritz. Motion approved unanimously.

Summarize.tech Recap - edited for clarity

During the Cybersecurity Advisory Council Meeting on March 20, 2024, the secretary reviewed the council's progress and upcoming action items. She presented the agenda, which included distributing materials for review, discussing resources, and addressing language for entering executive sessions. The council discussed the importance of considering private sector concerns for confidentiality and the need to ensure effective communication and precise language in cybersecurity policy discussions.

The council also addressed the upcoming cybersecurity survey for various critical infrastructure sectors, discussing potential skewing due to self-selection bias and adjusting the survey's scoring system. They debated the interpretation of terms like "N/A" and "never" in relation to cybersecurity policies and the importance of clear communication.

The topic of cyber insurance was brought up, with members acknowledging its role in an organization's cybersecurity maturity journey and considering different options. Additionally, the council discussed risk management and technology assessment, debating the frequency of reviews and the importance of considering the connectedness and operational significance of technology rather than its age.

The council then debated the effectiveness of password policies, specifically the need for regular password changes, and explored the potential of single sign-on solutions for managing user accounts. The group also discussed assessing Access Control maturity, the importance of cybersecurity training and awareness, and the relevance of assessing training effectiveness and the ability to restore from backups.

The council approved a survey for assessing cybersecurity programs and emphasized the importance of anonymity in the comment section. Lastly, the council addressed the increasing threat of ransomware attacks on critical infrastructure, emphasizing the importance of multi-

factor authentication, regular software updates, and improved information sharing between organizations and the government.