

Montana Information Security Advisory Council Goals and Objectives – 2015 Biennium

Mission

The mission of the State of Montana's Information Security Advisory Council (MT-ISAC) is to ensure that Montana's information systems are safe, secure, and resilient.

Three key concepts provide the foundation of this vision:

- Governance
- Posture
- Response
- Situational Awareness

In turn, these key concepts will drive broad areas of activity that will define the MT-ISAC objectives for the next two years. These goals and objectives define a framework to describe what it means to identify, prevent, protect, respond and recover, as well as incorporate security into Montana's information systems to ensure resilience to facilitate business in government operations.

Goals

- **Governance**

Advance Montana's overall security **Governance** by adopting frameworks of standards and processes to ensure confidentiality, integrity, and availability of Montana's information systems.

- **Objectives**

- Develop an interagency information security strategy with initiatives, priorities, policies, standards, and roles and responsibilities to enhance the state information security posture.
- Update State of Montana information security policies to align with the NIST Cybersecurity Framework.
- Develop standard accountability processes for Department heads to ensure information security.

- **Posture**

Advance Montana's overall security **Posture** through proactive risk management, cyber workforce development, and industry best practices for information security.

- **Objectives**

- Implement an Enterprise Security Program in conjunction with the MT-ISAC to advise on the effective implementation of information security in all agencies of state government.
- Begin the enterprise program by addressing gaps focusing on state government and expanding to the private sector over time through the use of the MT-ISAC.
- Develop and implement a state Risk Management services program and share risk management guidance and recommendations with local governments and the private sector.
- Recommend resources (funding, people, etc.) and possible methods to obtain information security teams, in order to enhance the State information security posture.
- Formalize information sharing protocol and document standing information needs.
- Begin to assess security posture and readiness of each Department in state government.
- Develop strategy for better patch management
- Develop limited user rights strategy for state information systems.
- Identify legacy systems which exist on the State of Montana network and create a plan for securing or removing those systems.
- Conduct internal evaluations of the statewide information security program.
- Recommend appropriate cost-effective safeguards to reduce, eliminate, or recover from identified threats to data.
- Advise on security requirements in the specifications for solicitation of state contracts for procuring information technology resources.

- **Response**

Advance Montana's overall security **Response** to the ever-changing information security landscape.

- **Objectives**

- Develop a Governor's information security dashboard
- Provide a yearly information security assessment to the Governor showing program successes and shortcomings with a plan to address shortcomings.
- Foster better communication in information security between federal, state, local, and tribal governments.
- Recommend new legislation or updates to existing laws such as reporting requirements to government and citizens as appropriate.
- Create recommendations to update current state statutes, both administrative statutes for state government needs and criminal statutes to address the present-day information security environment.
- Assess the feasibility of Security Assistance Teams (SAT). Teams may be comprised of security representatives from state agencies to help with risk assessments, make recommendations, write documents, and conduct training to help agencies be more secure based on MT-ISAC direction and industry best practices.
- Provide technical and managerial assistance relating to information security.
- Improve the State of Montana's investigative expertise in the information security area.
- Develop a plan to increase the education of Montana's law enforcement group regarding information security.
- Provide information on best practices for information security insurance, recommendations, options, awareness, coverage, cost, and other considerations.

- **Situational Awareness**

Advance Montana's overall security **Situational Awareness** to promote timely, relevant and accurate information sharing to facilitate decision making

- **Objectives**

- Create a strategy to promote information security situational awareness for all users.
- Develop a campaign to deliver the message of information security in a positive and informational manner that engages the listener and encourages them to integrate information security into his daily activities.
- Support a statewide information security training and awareness program to serve technical and managerial needs, as well as the needs of individuals.
- Support and participate in statewide information security groups and help to facilitate and leverage the existing communications channels.
- Recognize the University System's security needs; Document the University System perspective of their information security preparedness and the threats that they face, help develop a strategy of best practices, and assist with how to best promote information security.
- Recognize the Local Government security needs;
 - Document the Local Government perspective of their information security preparedness and the threats that they face, help develop a strategy of best practices, and assist with how to best promote information security.
- Recognize the Montana Local Business security needs.
 - Document the Local Business perspective of their information security preparedness and the threats that they face, help develop a strategy of best practices, and assist with how to best promote information security.
- Consider the needs of public information, access to public information, and the continuity of doing business in the State of Montana when making recommendations relative to security.
- Encourage development of a trained and educated information security workforce in Montana through the University System with private sector input
- Include an apprenticeship or internship program to develop hands-on information security skills.
- Identify key players within industry sectors and provide a forum for developing guidance and communicating with industry sectors.

- Collaborate with private industry to understand the information security posture of critical infrastructure.
- Explore training of DOA/DOJ/National Guard staff to defend against cyber-attacks through the use of best practices within the State of Washington National Guard cyber unit.
- Evaluate the State of Washington's best practices of the cyber unit of the National Guard and apply its practices in Montana where applicable.
- Explore additional resources in DOJ/DCI for Network Cyber Investigations.
- Research and recommend criminal investigative response in coordination with HSA, DOA, DOJ, and FBI.
- Move forward with state preparedness and migrate toward evaluation of the role with private sector as time and resources allow.

MT-ISAC will refer to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) [Glossary of Key Information Security Terms](#) for a list of NIST definitions.