



# Cyber Attack Understanding the Risk

A guide to the questions to ask your team to verify readiness

February 2021

Private and Confidential





# Why should State treasurers' care about Cyber attack?

Preservation is your mission

“Preserving public trust and capital through effective management of our cash resources.”

The costs and trust risk involved in:

- Improper handling of data
- Poor protection of physical systems
- Loss of system support to State Stakeholders
- Loss of State funds





## WHY YOU NEED TO CARE

### City of Atlanta- Ransomware attack

- Government computers shut off for 5 days
- 1/3 of city software programs disabled.
- Thousands of legal documents deleted
- Police dashcam video files deleted
- Residents made to pay their bills by paper.
- \$2.7 million paid to contractors in order to recover
- \$9.5 million in additional recovery costs



# Presentation Agenda

01

The Threat

## Overview of the threats

- Focus on Ransomware
- “Cyber Attack for Profit”

02

PLANNING

## Questions to Ask your team

- Help identify risks
- Prepare for an attack.

03

Legal issues

## Regulatory Risks

- Security Standards
- Federal Response to Ransomware

04

Incident Response

## 4 Stages of an Incident

- Understanding the stages of an attack
- Understanding your role

05

Protections

## Practical Steps

- Backups
- Whitelisting
- Patch Management
- Access Control
- Endpoint Monitoring

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# 1

## The Threat

Cyber Attack for Profit

# Cyber Threat Landscape

## THREATS

- Criminals / criminal organizations
- Terrorists / non-government organizations
- Hacktivists
- Foreign governments
- Employees
- Regulatory penalties
- Reputation/Political damage
- Financial loss

## TARGETED ASSETS

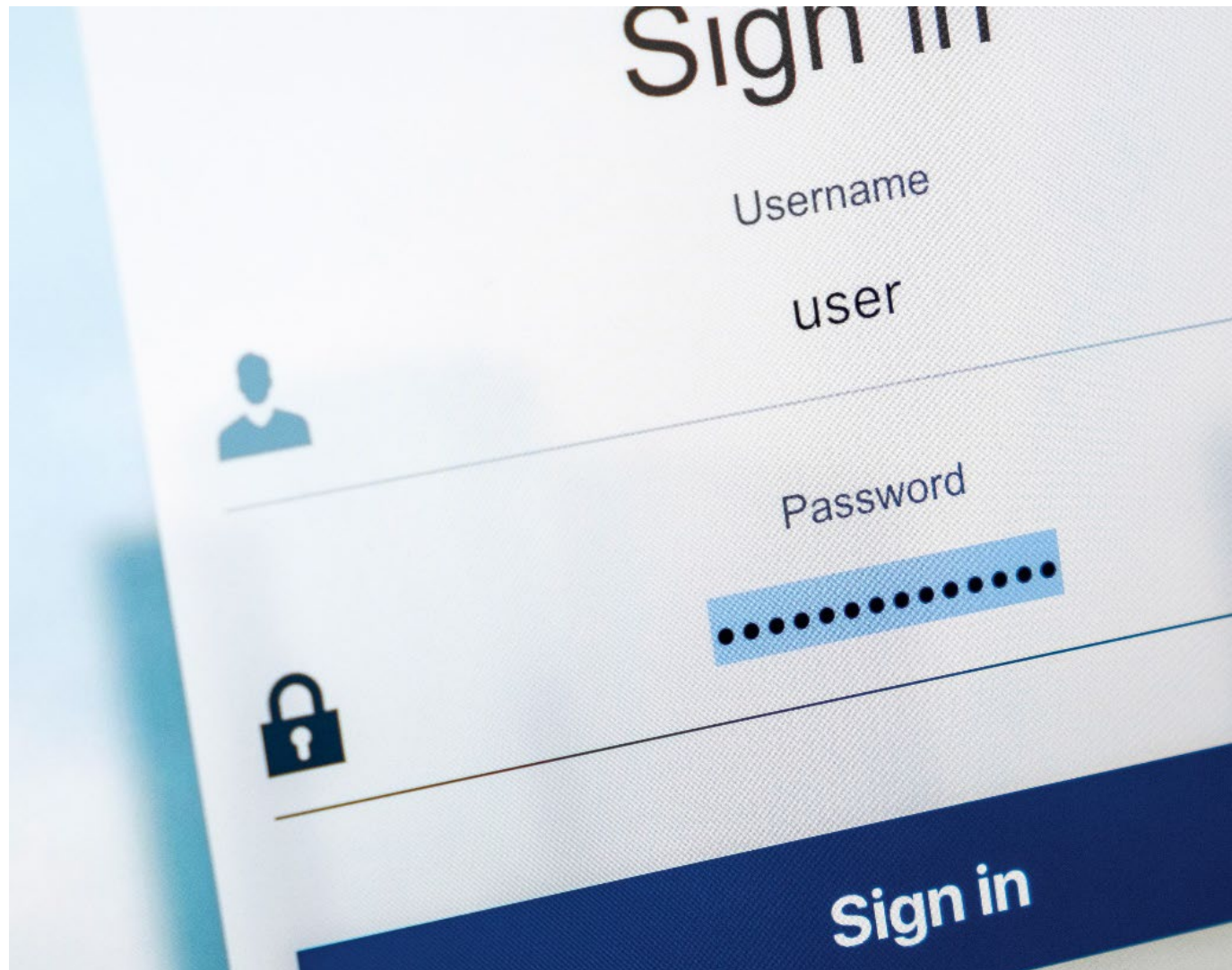
- Citizen data
  - Personal information
  - Account data
- State Client data
- Financial system functions- AR & AP
- State Payment Systems
- Financial assets
- Employee PII
- Network bandwidth

## ATTACK METHODS

- Phishing for credentials
- Web site attacks
- Social engineering
- DDoS
- Cross site scripting
- Data alteration
- Business email compromise
- Ransomware

# Social Engineering Fraud

- More Dangerous Than Ever
  - Only as strong as your weakest link
  - Must be right 100% of the time
- Types of Attacks
  - Phishing
  - Spearphishing
  - **Delivery and Technical Account Scams**



# Delivery and Technical Account Scams

## Amazon, Apple, Google and FedEx

- **Pandemic modified scams**
  - Victim receives call from person claiming to be from Amazon/Apple/Google/FedEx
  - States there is issue with account
  - Feeds back contact data to victim
  - Offers to trouble shoot account
  - Provides link to enter to 'see'
    - Link is actually automatic code to share computer with threat actor
  - Once threat actors has access- they show fake 'attack data'
  - Attacker Uses access in background to enter firm site

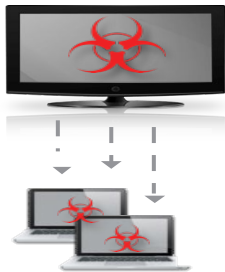




# NEW RANSOMWARE TACTICS

Hacking skills increasing within specialized groups- with targeted attacks

Persistence and  
lateral movement



Attackers are “living” off  
the network tools- and  
using existing FTP or  
transfer protocols to  
transfer data

Backup Destruction  
Email Monitoring



The attackers are  
monitoring emails, and  
destroying backups to  
force payment

Data review for pricing,  
data theft for Blackmail



Attackers are reviewing  
finances to cost payment.  
Data is taken to threaten  
shame if payment not made

# LATEST ATTACK VECTORS

## MalDoc Pfishing



Fake FedEx, Dropbox and fake voice mail messages have been joined by fake DocuSign.

## VPN / Data transfer targeting



Attackers look for old, unpatched VPN's or data transfer systems and compromise them, allowing for Can Credential theft and even MFA 'seed' harvesting

## Data Mining



Data research techniques and password reuse allow for credential bypass





# 02

## Planning

### Questions to Ask your Team

Things you need to know from your team to understand where you are the road to cyber security

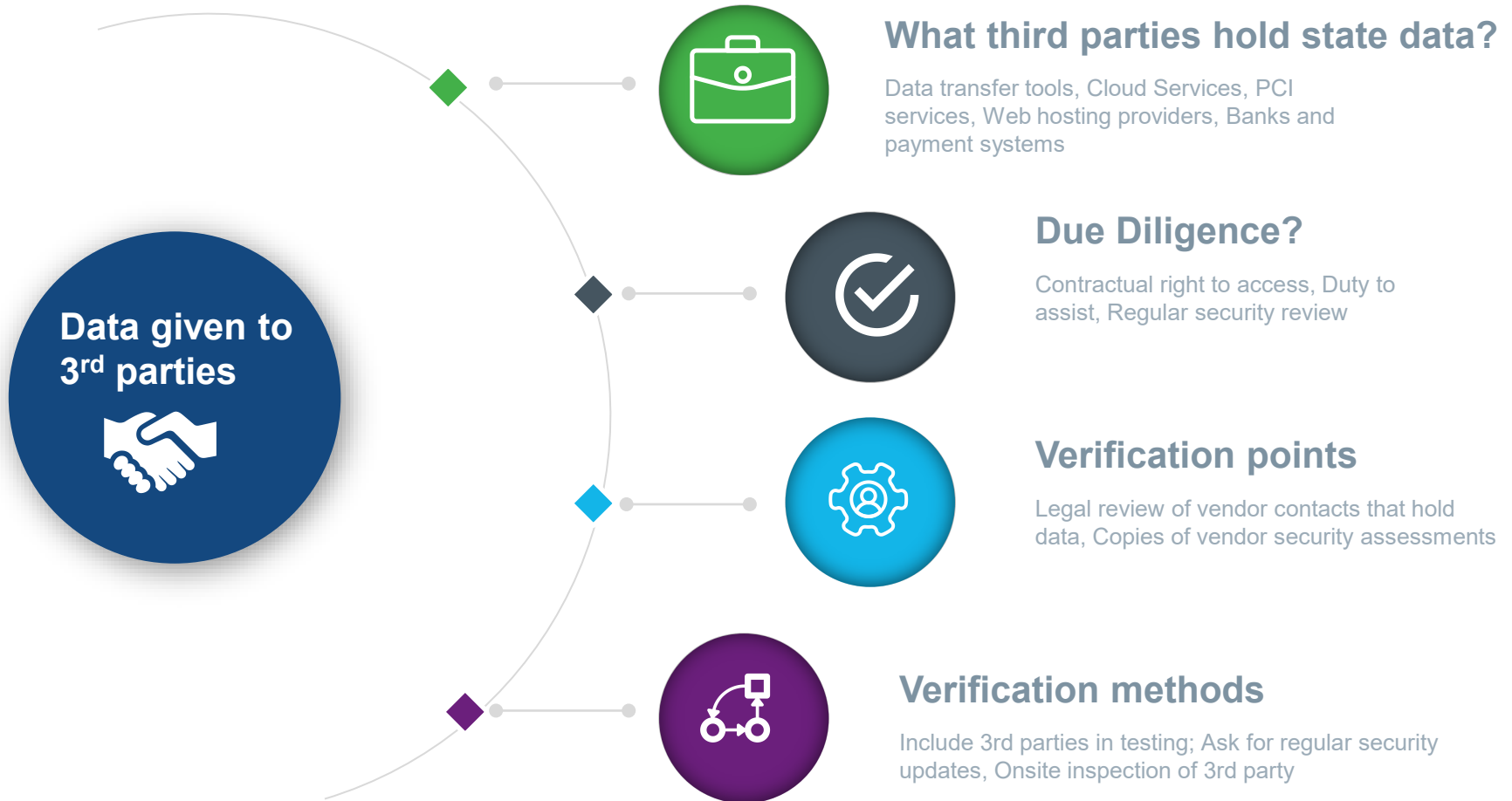
# What data and systems must we protect?



**ELECTED ISSUE:** Avoid keeping state financial data that can contain PII connected to networks for longer than operationally needed



# Where is our data, and Who can access it?



**ELECTED OVERSIGHT:** Ensure that third parties meet the same security standards as the State, and budget for auditing of the controls on a regular basis.

# Can we identify attacks quickly?



**Elected OVERSIGHT:** Review the definition of an incident with management team to ensure that focus is directed on the proper financial risks



# Have we the ability to respond quickly?



**ELECTED OVERSIGHT** -: Ensure that management has in place the ability to respond to data issues (team & plan)

# Pre-Breach Work - Refining the Incident Response Plan

Have you reviewed the Incident Response (IR) Plan?

- Does it define what an incident is?
- Does it establish a team with decision-making authority?
- Does it define criteria for declaring an incident?
- Does it define criteria for escalation?
- How often is it tested?
- How is it deployed?



# Pre-Breach Work - IR Team Vetting

## How to evaluate preparedness

### Do we have an IR team?

- Who are the key members?
  - Legal counsel
  - Senior management
  - CISO
  - PCI implementer
  - Others

### Who leads the team?

- Decision-making authority
- Competence
- Familiarity with the Incident Response Plan

### What is the team's purpose?

- Reduce business risk to the organization
- Minimize the impact of an incident on the reputation, operations, and finances of the organization if an incident occurs

### Are we providing effective support to the IR team?

- Are we providing continuous training to the team and our staff?
- Does the team have access to all business units and groups?
- Does the IR team have access to details about vendor security?
- Has the IR team identified all third-party dependencies?



# Preparation: Is this risk properly managed?



# Preparation: Is help lined up?



**ELECTED OVERSIGHT:** Ensure that external resources have contracts pre-approved for state contracting

# Preparation: Ensure training







# 03

Legal and  
regulatory risk

# What Constitutes Reasonable Security?

The 20 Critical Security Controls identify a minimum level of information security that all organizations that collect or maintain personal information should meet.

**The failure to implement all the Controls that apply to an organization's environment constitutes a lack of reasonable security.**



California Data Breach Report (Feb 2016) Attorney Gen. Kamala D. Harris

# Top 20 Critical Security Controls

|    |                                                               |    |                                          |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Asset Inventory                                               | 11 | Secure Network Configurations            |
| 2  | Software Inventory                                            | 12 | Boundary Defense                         |
| 3  | Secure Hardware & Software Configurations                     | 13 | Data Protection                          |
| 4  | Continuous Vulnerability Assessment and Remediation           | 14 | Controlled Access Based on Need to Know  |
| 5  | Controlled Use of Admin Privileges                            | 15 | Wireless Access Control                  |
| 6  | Maintenance, Monitoring and Analysis of Audit Logs            | 16 | Account Monitoring and Control           |
| 7  | Email and Web Browser Protections                             | 17 | Security Skills Assessment and Training  |
| 8  | Malware Defenses                                              | 18 | Application Software Security            |
| 9  | Limitation and Control of Network Ports, Protocols & Services | 19 | Incident Response and Management         |
| 10 | Data Recovery Capability                                      | 20 | Penetration Tests and Red Team Exercises |



# REGULATORY SUPERVISION IS INCREASING

Department of  
Treasury Office of  
Foreign Asset  
Control (OFAC)



Ransom payment to  
sanction entity or person –  
company is strictly liable.

Department of  
Treasury Financial  
Crimes Enforcement  
Network (FINCEN)



Facilitating payment of  
ransom may require SARS  
notice and reporting

Department of  
Justice- Cyber Crime  
Division



Overview of legal issues when  
Purchasing Data  
from Illicit Sources

[https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/126/ofac\\_ransomware\\_advisory\\_10012020\\_1.pdf](https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/126/ofac_ransomware_advisory_10012020_1.pdf)

<https://www.justice.gov/criminal-ccips/page/file/1252341/download>

FIN-2020-A00X, "Advisory on Ransomware and the Use of the Financial System to Facilitate Ransom Payments," October 1, 2020



# 04

## Understanding an Incident Response

Steps involved in a proper response

The Elected's role in an IR

# 4 Stages of Incident Response





# Determining resources and impact

The act, event or information that starts the process



## IT defines the facts

- System accessed
- Facts showing access

## Legal supplies the law

- Data type
- Regulatory impact

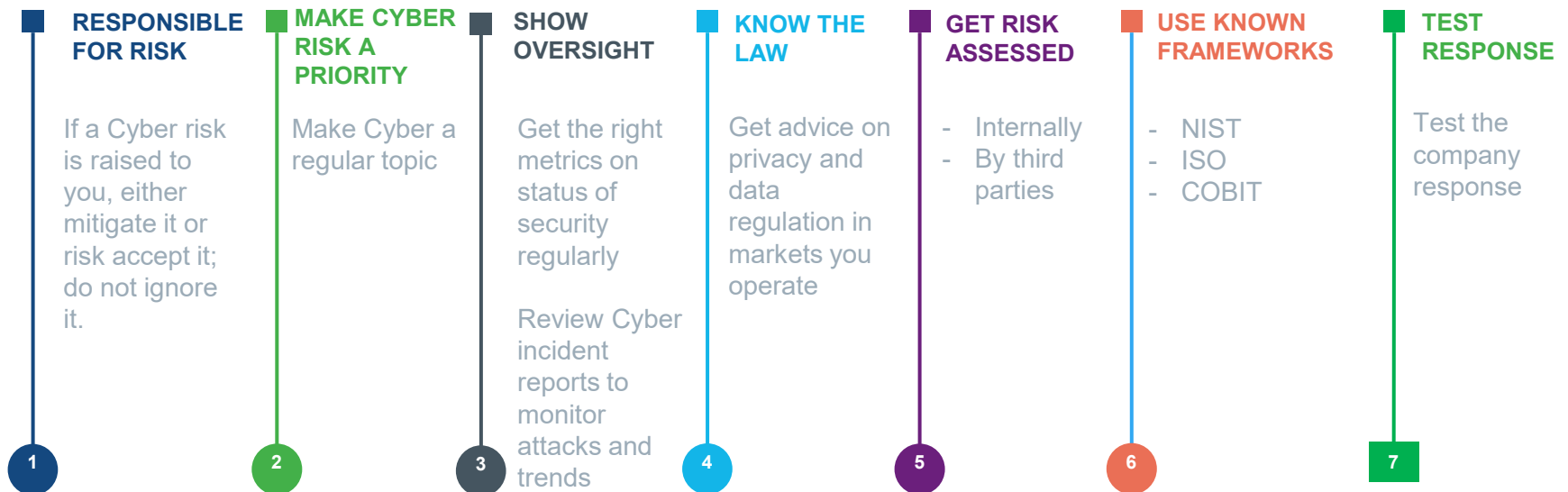
## Business measures risk

- Notice?
- Regulatory effect?
- Customer effect?

Elected makes decision

# Implications for the Elected

## Responsibilities you cannot shift to IT





# 05

## Protections

Practical Steps to consider for  
Protecting networks

# 1

## Back up data regularly and secure backups offline

**Backups are essential: if you're infected, a backup may be the only way to recover your data**

- Ensure backups are not constantly directly connected to the system they are backing up-add separation and additional credentials.
- Verify the integrity of backups and test the restoration process
- TEST systems regularly





# 2 Restrictively configure firewalls, use whitelisting and segment your network

**Block all but known IP's, applications and users**

- Use block list data to identify and Block access to
  - Known malicious IP addresses
  - 'new' IP addresses
  - Ip locations outside customer and user base
- Whitelist applications by verify a business purpose to the application and its use
- Segment the network- If every user and server is on the same network, new variants can spread



# 3

## Develop a patching process, regularly update 'Master' images with patched software

Patching OS, software, and firmware on all devices minimizes chance of a successful exploit

- Consider using centralized patch-management for regular patching
- Regularly update the standard server and endpoint install to include patches and monitoring tools
- Ratify an emergency patch process for special incidents
- Pay attention to VPN and MFA vulnerabilities



# Use a Hardening Guide and Benchmarks

- There are many small steps that can be taken on a computer to disable and secure processes that can be exploited by an attacker.
- Rather than trying to determine the best approach- use the CIS Benchmark system to get a set of updated, free safeguards.
- Make sure that your IT team/provider uses the guides and explains why any hardening step is not being implemented



## Secure Your Systems & Platforms CIS Benchmarks™

Proven guidelines will enable you to safeguard operating systems, software and networks that are most vulnerable to cyber attacks. They are continuously verified by a volunteer IT community to combat evolving cybersecurity challenges.

*CIS Benchmarks Examples:*



**Download Free CIS Benchmark PDFs:**

Select Platform



Download →

# 4

## Develop a hierarchy for user permission and data access

**Determine what types of users need what types of data and implement controls to limit unnecessary access**

- No users should have administrative access unless absolutely needed
- Include system and process accounts in the review
- Physically and logically separate networks and data for different organizational units





# Manage Permissions and Active Directory

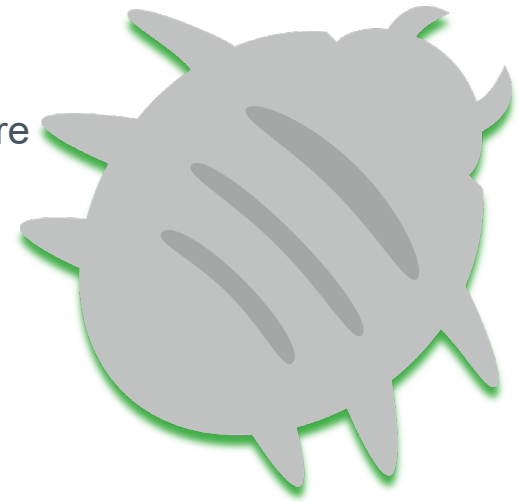
- Who is responsible for deciding the permission levels of staff and processes?
- Who has permission to create new accounts
- What rules do they use to decide permission levels?
- How often do we audit the user accounts against the staff?
- Who gets an alert when a new user account is created?
- How does that person validate the existence of the account?
- What are the settings for AD?
- Who selected them?
- Are they standard?
- The permission provided to users and to processes running on your network must be regularly reviewed
  - Use the least privileged approach- only the permission level needed to do the tasks assigned
  - Regularly audit administrative accounts
  - Create standard limited account permission sets, and require exceptions to permissions must be approved beyond IT
- Involve HR in reviewing to ensure that all accounts belong to active employees.
- Active Directory must be regularly monitored and cleaned up
- Make sure that you are using MS rulesets, and have a permission process in place to change these rules

# 5

## Engage in Network and Endpoint Monitoring

**Next-gen platforms use automation and cloud-based intelligence to back up your best practices**

- Inspect files and identify malicious behavior before it strikes
- Block malware and non-malware attacks that exploit memory and scripting languages like PowerShell
- Increase scale and efficiency of highly-touted practices like application whitelisting



# Engage in threat detection

- Do we have a monitoring tool watching activity on our endpoints?
- Who reviews the alerts from it?
- How often do they check?
- How were they trained to understand and respond to alerts?
- How do we get alerts on off hours and holidays?
- How did we select things to alert on?
- A key measure of a modern, effective information security program is its ability to rapidly detect **and** effectively respond to an intrusion.
- Given the widespread use of cloud data, detection capacity must exist on desktops
  - Identify and flag known bad executables
  - Analyze the behavior shown on a computer against attack methods and processes
  - Get data from Multiple threat intelligence sources and 'learn' IOC.s
  - Be able to conduct threat hunting and get identification of threats
  - Rapid notification of **validated** threats

# 6

## Plan for an attack

**Run regular drills to test response capability to recover from and manage with loss of data**

- Create a data map and an IR plan that supports it
- Actively supervise your IR plan and team
- Put in place relationships in the event assistance is needed- plan on how to manage vendors



# ENHANCING VALUE ACROSS A RANGE OF EXPERTISE

## Our service areas



### VALUATION ADVISORY

Valuation and consulting for financial reporting, tax, investment and risk management purposes

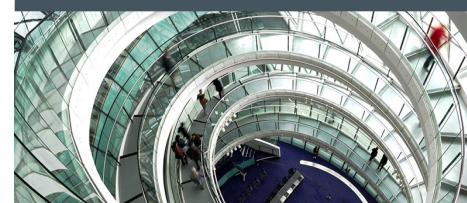
- Valuation Services
- Alternative Asset Advisory
- Real Estate Advisory
- Tax Services
- Transfer Pricing
- Fixed Asset Management and Insurance Solutions



### CORPORATE FINANCE

Objective guidance to management teams and stakeholders throughout restructuring, financing and M&A transactions, including independent fairness and solvency opinions

- M&A Advisory
- Fairness and Solvency Opinions
- Transaction Advisory Services
- ESOP and ERISA Advisory
- Private Equity - Financial Sponsors Group
- Distressed M&A and Special Situations
- Private Capital Markets and Debt Advisory



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- Cyber Risk
- Disputes Consulting
- Global Restructuring Advisory
- Legal Management Consulting
- Security Risk Management



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- Kroll Corporate Actions
- Lucid Issuer Services
- Lucid Agency and Trustee Services
- Kroll Class Action Administration
- Kroll Mass Tort Administration
- Kroll Notice Media Solutions
- Kroll Business Technology
- Kroll Agency Cloud



## Joseph Marcelonis

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Joseph Marcelonis is a managing director in the Government Solutions practice of Kroll, based out of the New York office. He has over 24 years of experience handling unclaimed property matters.

Joseph joined the firm through the acquisition of Verus Analytics by Kroll in July 2020.

Prior to joining Verus in 2010, Joseph was involved in the day-to-day operations and acted as a client liaison for state clients with the ACS Unclaimed Property Clearinghouse. He developed and improved workflow efficiencies and ensured proper delivery of unclaimed property to clients. He also conducted webinars, provided internal training, and communicated regularly with clients on new developments, important unclaimed property issues and new initiatives.



## Jonathan Fairtlough

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**Jonathan** is a managing director with Kroll's Cyber Security & Investigations practice based in Los Angeles. A member of Kroll's cyber management team, he joined Kroll after a distinguished career with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office where he served as both a prosecutor and co-founder of the office's High Technology Division. At Kroll, Jonathan has lead teams for the past eight years that provide comprehensive investigative services for digital forensics, data breach response and complex crimes related to loss of information.

Prior to joining Kroll, Jonathan was the assistant head deputy and co-founder of the High Technology Division of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, a role he held for 13 years. Jonathan has successfully investigated and prosecuted hundreds of hacking, IP and ID theft cases, as well as civil cases for the District Attorney. During his career, Jonathan held a number of positions within the District Attorney's Office and was involved in many high-profile cases, including the first major data breach filed in Los Angeles County for which he received the IAFCI (Southern California Chapter) award for Prosecutor of the Year in 2006.

Jonathan is an internationally known lecturer on the nature and scope of Cybercrime, IP theft and the trends that are affecting businesses globally. He is a regular instructor for the United States Department of Homeland Security's National Computer Forensic Institute, where he teaches classes on the use of Computer Forensics and Cyber Investigations for prosecutors. Mr. Fairtlough is an active member of the California state bar and a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP).



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**Greg** is a Managing Director with Kroll's Cyber Risk practice. In this role, Greg partners with clients to build strategic and operational information security programs, comply with regulatory requirements and reduce enterprise risk. Greg has deep experience collaborating across functional units and communicating technical matters to executive stakeholders.

Greg manages a global team of technical, operational and strategic cybersecurity specialists and leads engagements across industries. Services provided by Greg's team include, but are not limited to, network and application penetration testing, vulnerability testing, social engineering, cybersecurity risk assessments, and threat analysis and monitoring.

Prior to joining Kroll, Greg worked as Chief Security Officer for BluePrint Healthcare IT, where he led the Security, Privacy, and Compliance practice and led client HITRUST certification engagements. Previously, Greg worked as an Information Security Analyst for i3 Global (United Health Group), and as a Network and Security Administrator for PXRE Group, Ltd.

Greg holds Master's degrees in Information Assurance from Capitol College and Health and Technology Law from Seton Hall Law School. He also holds a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from Rutgers University. Greg is certified as a CISSP, QSA, CISM, CRISC, CISA, PMP, and CBCP, and is a frequent speaker at international security and privacy conferences.



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**TOTAL PROFESSIONALS**  
**GLOBALLY**

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NEARLY  
**48%** OF THE  
**S&P 500**

THE  
AMERICAS

**2,000+**  
PROFESSIONALS

EUROPE AND  
MIDDLE EAST

**1,100+**  
PROFESSIONALS

ASIA  
PACIFIC

**850+**  
PROFESSIONALS



For more information, please contact:

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