Nationwide Cyber Security Review

The Nationwide Cyber Security Review (NCSR) is a voluntary self-assessment survey that is now aligned to the NIST CyberSecurity Framework. The Senate Appropriations Committee requested an ongoing effort to chart nationwide progress in cybersecurity and identify emerging areas of concern. In response, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has partnered with the Center for Internet Security’s Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO), and the National Association of Counties (NACo) to develop and conduct the NCSR.

As a result, the NCSR is available annually starting in CyberSecurity Awareness Month. Using the NCSR results, DHS and MS-ISAC will work with our partners in state, local, tribal and territorial governments to identify actionable steps for improving the security of the nation’s critical cyber infrastructure. The NCSR can help serve as a tool to measure progress in cybersecurity and to drive initiatives and priorities according to the identified needs of the SLTT governments. The Review will be instrumental in evaluating trends as the NIST Cybersecurity Framework is adopted by our public and private sector partners. To aid the adoption and implementation of the NIST Cyber Security Framework, DHS created the Critical Infrastructure Cyber Community (pronounced C-Cubed) Voluntary Program. DHS’ C³ Voluntary Program aims to: 1) support industry in increasing its cyber resilience; 2) increase awareness and use of the Framework; and 3) encourage organizations to manage cybersecurity as part of an all hazards approach to enterprise risk management. For more information, please visit http://www.dhs.gov/ccubedvp.

Who can participate?
All States (and agencies), Local governments, Tribal and Territorial governments.

Why should you participate?
• to take advantage of free and voluntary self-assessment to evaluate your cyber security posture
• to receive customized reports to help you understand your cybersecurity maturity, including:
  • a detailed report of your responses along with recommendations to improve your organization’s cybersecurity posture
  • additional summary reports that gauge your cyber security measures against peers (using anonymized data)
  • to prioritize your effort to develop security controls
• develop a benchmark to gauge your own year-to-year progress
• receive metrics to assist in cybersecurity investment justifications
• contribute to the nation’s cyber risk assessment process

How does it work?
• closely aligned with NIST Cyber Security Framework
• hosted on a secure portal
• based on key milestone activities for information risk management
• covers the core components of cybersecurity and privacy programs
• designed to be completed in about 1 to 2 hours

When does the survey take place?
The survey will be available October 1, to coincide with National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

For more information, and to register, visit: http://msisac.cisecurity.org/resources/ncsr
Survey
The NCSR provides participants with instructions and guidance, and additional support available through online help, supplemental documentation and the ability to contact the NCSR helpdesk directly from the survey.

Once complete, participants will have immediate access to an individualized report that measures the level of adoption of the NIST CyberSecurity Framework within their organization and includes recommendations on how to raise the organization’s risk awareness. In alternate years only (odd numbered years) the MS-ISAC and DHS will aggregate all review data and share a high level summary with all participants. The names of participants and their organizations will not be identified in this report. This report is provided to Congress in alternate years (odd numbered years) to highlight cyber security gaps and capabilities among our State, Local, Territorial and Tribal Governments.

Partners
The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has partnered with the Center for Internet Security’s (CIS) Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO), and the National Association of Counties (NACo) to develop the Nationwide Cyber Security Review.

DHS is responsible for safeguarding our Nation’s critical infrastructure from physical and cyber threats that can affect national security, public safety, and economic prosperity. NPPD leads DHS’s efforts to secure cyberspace and cyber infrastructure. For additional information, please visit www.dhs.gov/cyber.

NASCIO’s mission is to foster government excellence through quality business practices, information management, and technology policy. Founded in 1969, the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 association representing state chief information officers and information technology executives and managers from the states, territories, and the District of Columbia. The primary state members are senior officials from state government who have executive-level and statewide responsibility for information technology leadership. State officials who are involved in agency level information technology management may participate as associate members. Representatives from federal, municipal, international government and non-profit organizations may also participate as members. Private-sector firms join as corporate members and participate in the Corporate Leadership Council.

CIS is a nonprofit organization focused on enhancing the cyber security readiness and response of public and private sector entities, with a commitment to excellence through collaboration. CIS serves as a central resource in the development and delivery of high-quality, timely products and services to assist our partners in government, academia, the private sector and the general public in improving their cyber security posture.

MS-ISAC, a division of CIS, is the focal point for cyber threat prevention, protection, response and recovery for the nation’s state, local, territorial and tribal (SLTT) governments. The MS-ISAC 24x7 cyber security operations center provides real-time network monitoring, early cyber threat warnings and advisories, vulnerability identification and mitigation and incident response.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation’s 3,069 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public’s understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.naco.org.