



October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Once again, it is Cybersecurity Awareness Month. This year is the 18th year of a dedicated month to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity. Organized by the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency and the National Cyber Security Alliance, Cybersecurity Awareness Month is an opportune time to remind business owners and leaders to analyze and improve their organization's overall cyber hygiene. As a cybersecurity expert, I appreciate each weekly theme of Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Week 1 – Be Cyber Smart!

I recommend that all my clients use multi-factor authentication for every account and device – from their social media channels to their bank login to work email from smartphones to their remote access services. For businesses with a significant percentage of their workforce still working remotely, the remote access category is extremely important. Be sure to address any work-from-home (WFH) and remote access security deficiencies.

Week 2 – Fight the Phish

Many of us know that phishing is typically associated with nefarious cyber activity. Phishing is a technique used by hackers to obtain sensitive information. As an example, using carefully designed email messages to trick people into divulging personal or confidential data such as passwords, bank account information, credit card numbers, social security numbers and similar information.

Once this data is obtained from email recipients that have been “phished”, it is often used for further cyber attacks. Play hard to get with strangers. Cybercriminals and bad actors use phishing tactics to fool their victims.

My advice – view each email from unknown senders as suspect even if it appears authentic. Do not respond and do not click on any links or attachments until you verify it's a trustworthy message. If you are at work – call your IT department's attention to the email.

Week 3 – Explore. Experience. Share. Cybersecurity Career Awareness Week

I have over 30 years of experience delivering programs and technology solutions, focusing on information security, data protection and third-party risk management. There are many career paths available in cybersecurity.

I am also an expert witness in cybersecurity and third-party risk litigation. From high-quality reports to deposition and trial testimony, I present findings on various matters, including network security incidents, malware events, and vendor cybersecurity incidents. I work with lawyers to help their clients prevent cyber litigation by ensuring systems are in place to help prevent a cyber incident and, if and when a cyber event occurs, to identify the points of weakness and responsibility.

Week 4 – Cybersecurity First

Data breaches resulted in 36 billion records being exposed in the first three quarters of 2020. This staggering statistic is from Fortinet and Risk-Based Security. Hackers manage to compromise corporate data and systems on a regular basis and with relative ease. We are seeing more and more businesses of all sizes experience cyber incidents and attacks and then face the legal repercussions that follow.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please [contact me](#). I would be happy to discuss strategies to mitigate your cyber risk. In the meantime, celebrate Cybersecurity Awareness Month - Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart

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