

Cybersecurity Elections Table Top and MS-ISAC Summary

August 15, 2018

There has been a great deal of work going on around cyber security these days. As noted earlier this afternoon, I along with a number of county CIOs attended the "Tabletop the vote 2018 National Election Cyber Exercise". This truly was an energizing afternoon of three modules of scenarios that we could encounter in relation to election security. The goal was to share and identify best practices across the United States as well as identify areas for improvement. The Pennsylvania participants included election directors, CIOs, Department of State staff, Office of Administration staff, Governor's Office staff, and PEMA staff. The scenarios were moderated by the Department of Homeland Security via a simulcast link. This allowed for other states to participate as well (states included, New Jersey, Kentucky, Rhode Island, Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin, Iowa and many others). Some key takeaways included:

- Everyone should be using Multi-Factor Authentication (although it doesn't solve all problems)
- Required security training for all IT staff
- Required security training for all new employees before they are issued their device
- The auto-feeding of identified IPs that counties should be blocking at the firewall
- Counties need more resources to carry out proactive security best practices
- While mitigation is critical, so is investigation and documenting the incidents/breaches for various purposes including criminal investigations
- There are a number of highly recommended resources that county IT departments should be aware of, including MS-ISAC, the National Guard, local Homeland Security intelligence officers to name a few.

These are just a few of the key takeaways today.

Another interesting development is that CCAP is working with the state to provide to MS-ISAC a complete list of IT contacts in Pennsylvania so that we can get all counties registered with MS-ISAC, thereby ensuring that critical cyber security information is being sent out to all PA counties. So if you are not a member of MS-ISAC watch for an email in the near future from either Eugene Kipniss or Kyle Bryans at CIS security informing you that you are now a member. This is just a brief summary and I want to thank the following **CIO's/Technology staff** for attending: Chester County, Berks County, Lehigh County, Bucks County, Lycoming County, Lancaster County, Luzerne County.