

TECH BYTES

TECH AND CYBERSECURITY UPDATES: YOUR MONTHLY DIGEST



Making sure that you stay informed with the most recent developments and technology trends!

Matthew DeWees
-President

Considering cybersecurity insurance for your business? It's a wise decision in today's digital landscape. But before diving in, a thorough assessment of your needs is crucial. Otherwise, you can end up paying a lot more than you need to.

First, conduct a cyber risk assessment to identify your vulnerabilities. Second, understand which cybersecurity safeguards you do or don't have in place. Finally, get help from an IT professional to secure the most suitable and cost-effective policy. By taking these steps, you can make an informed decision and select a cyber insurance plan that is a cost-effective digital safety net.

Need some help? Reach out to us at everythingit@virtualdataworks.com to schedule a consult.

Until then, stay safe,



President - Virtual DataWorks

WHAT'S INSIDE?

02 The Updated NIST 2.0
Cybersecurity Framework

03 Is Your Business Losing
Money?

04 Improving your Company's
Data Management

05 A Culture of Cyber
Awareness

06 Active Threat Response
for Sophos Wireless


07 Continuous Monitoring is a
Cybersecurity Must

DID YOU
KNOW  

Every 39 seconds,
a cyberattack
occurs somewhere
on the web.

 475 Wolf Ledges Parkway
Akron, Ohio 44311

 virtualdataworks.com

 (330)800-2186

Staying ahead of threats is a challenge for organizations of all sizes. Reported global security incidents grew between February and March of 2024. They increased by 69.8%. It's important to use a structured approach to cybersecurity. This helps to protect your organization.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) created a Cybersecurity Framework (CSF). It provides an industry-agnostic approach to security. It's designed to help companies manage and reduce their cybersecurity risks. The framework was recently updated in 2024 to NIST CSF 2.0.

CSF 2.0 is a comprehensive update that builds upon the success of its predecessor. It offers a more streamlined and flexible approach to cybersecurity. This guide aims to simplify the framework.



02 A SIMPLE GUIDE TO THE UPDATED NIST 2.0 CYBERSECURITY FRAMEWORK

Understanding the Core of NIST CSF 2.0

At the heart of CSF 2.0 is the Core. The Core consists of five concurrent and continuous Functions. These are: Identify, Protect, Detect, Respond, and Recover. These Functions provide a high-level strategic view of cybersecurity risk. This allows for a dynamic approach to addressing threats.

Here are the five Core Functions of NIST CSF 2.0.

- **Identify** – This function involves identifying and understanding the organization's assets, cyber risks, and vulnerabilities.
- **Protect** – The protect function focuses on implementing safeguards. These protections are to deter, detect, and mitigate cybersecurity risks.
- **Detect** – Early detection of cybersecurity incidents is critical for minimizing damage. The detect function emphasizes the importance of detection.
- **Respond** – The respond function outlines the steps to take in the event of a cybersecurity incident.
- **Recover** – The recover function focuses on restoring normal operations after a cybersecurity incident.

Profiles and Tiers: Tailoring the Framework

The updated framework introduces the concept of Profiles and Tiers. These help organizations tailor their cybersecurity practices. They can customize them to their specific needs, risk tolerances, and resources.

PROFILES – Profiles are the alignment of the Functions, Categories, and Subcategories. They're aligned with the business requirements, risk tolerance, and resources of the organization.

TIERS – Tiers provide context on how an organization views cybersecurity risk as well as the processes in place to manage that risk. They range from Partial (Tier 1) to Adaptive (Tier 4).

Benefits of Using NIST CSF 2.0

- **Improved Cybersecurity Posture:** By following the guidance in NIST CSF 2.0, organizations can develop a more comprehensive and effective cybersecurity program.
- **Reduced Risk of Cyberattacks:** The framework helps organizations identify and mitigate cybersecurity risks.
- **Enhanced Compliance:** NIST aligned CSF 2.0 with many industry standards and regulations.
- **Improved Communication:** The framework provides a common language for communicating about cybersecurity risks.
- **Cost Savings:** NIST CSF 2.0 can help organizations save money. It does this by preventing cyberattacks.

Getting Started with NIST CSF 2.0

- Familiarize yourself with the framework
- Assess your current cybersecurity posture
- Develop a cybersecurity plan
- Seek professional help

By following these steps, you can begin to deploy NIST CSF 2.0 in your organization. At the same time, you'll be improving your cybersecurity posture.



[READ MORE](#)



**PROTECT YOUR
CYBERSECURITY
FRAMEWORK**

**NETWORK
ASSESSMENT**



IS YOUR BUSINESS LOSING MONEY BECAUSE EMPLOYEES CAN'T USE TECH?

Shiny new tech can be exciting! It promises increased efficiency, happier employees, and a competitive edge. But that promise can turn into a financial nightmare if you neglect employee training and change management.

When employees have trouble using their business tools, productivity drops. Mistakes can be made, and customer service can fall.

Lack of Technology Training

Imagine investing in a top-of-the-line CRM system. Then you see your sales team floundering instead of excelling. They can't find key features, struggle with data entry, and miss deadlines. Why? Because they haven't been properly trained on the new software. It leads to the following costs:

- Lost Productivity
- Costly Errors
- Demotivation and Resistance

Failing to Manage the Change

New technology disrupts workflows. Without proper change management, employees feel overwhelmed and insecure. The goal is to help them transition successfully with proper training and support.

When companies neglect change management, the following can happen:

- Low Morale
- Use of Shadow IT
- Resistance to Future Improvements

Building a Bridge to Success

So, what is the key to unlocking the true value of new technology? It lies in effective training and change management.

Here's how to avoid the negative costs and get the full benefits from your tech.

- Invest in Comprehensive Training - Don't treat training as an afterthought. Yes, some tools say they're easy to use. But people have different tech literacy levels. Develop a tailored training program that goes beyond basic features. Include video tutorials, hands-on workshops, and ongoing support resources.
- Focus on User Adoption, Not Just Features - Training shouldn't just explain how the software works. It should focus on how the new system will benefit employees in their daily tasks and improve workflow efficiency. If employees don't adopt the new solution, the project fails.

- Embrace Change Management - Communicate the "why" behind the change. Explain how the new technology will make everyone's jobs easier. Encourage open communication and address concerns throughout the transition.

THE TAKEAWAY

New technology is a powerful tool, but it's only as valuable as its users. Prioritize employee training and change management. This will help you bridge the gap between a shiny new system and a real return on investment.

Happy, well-trained employees using the right tools are your secret weapon. They can help you maximize efficiency, boost morale, and stay ahead of the curve.

04 GUIDE TO IMPROVING YOUR COMPANY'S DATA MANAGEMENT

Microsoft Copilot has been heading up the business AI charge. This genAI-powered app is showing up in various function-related activities. The latest is finance processes.

Microsoft Copilot for Finance is a game-changer. It injects the power of next-generation AI into the heart of your everyday workflow. Imagine having an AI companion that understands the intricacies of finance and collaborates seamlessly with you.

It can help a seasoned financial analyst or a curious learner. It automates repetitive tasks and provides real-time insights. Copilot is poised to revolutionize how we navigate the fiscal realm.

WHAT IS MICROSOFT COPILOT FOR FINANCE?

Copilot for Finance is a new Copilot experience in Microsoft 365. It connects to business financial systems. Such as Dynamics 365 and SAP. It provides finance-based insights and guided actions in:

- Outlook
- Excel
- Microsoft Teams
- Other Microsoft 365 applications

Benefits of Using Copilot for Finance

Copilot for finance offers several benefits to those in financial roles. These include:

- Breaking Free from the Manual Grind
- AI-Powered Insights at Your Fingertips
- Tailored for Your Team
- Seamless Integration for a Frictionless Experience
- Built with Trust in Mind

A Glimpse into the Future of Finance

Copilot for Finance represents a significant leap forward in financial technology. It's more than just automation. It's about harnessing the power of AI to augment human expertise. As well as transform the way finance operates.

05 10 EASY STEPS TO BUILDING A CULTURE OF CYBER AWARENESS

Cyberattacks are a constant threat in today's digital world. Phishing emails, malware downloads, and data breaches. They can cripple businesses and devastate personal lives.

Building a cyber awareness culture doesn't require complex strategies or expensive training programs. Here are some simple steps you can take to make a big difference.

1. Start with leadership buy-in
2. Make security awareness fun, not fearful
3. Speak their language
4. Keep it short and sweet
5. Conduct phishing drills
6. Make reporting easy and encouraged
7. Security champions: empower your employees
8. Beyond work: security spills over
9. Celebrate successes
10. Leverage technology

06 INTRODUCING ACTIVE THREAT RESPONSE FOR SOPHOS WIRELESS

Sophos' acclaimed suite of solutions and services streamlines your security infrastructure, enabling you to concentrate on your primary business goals. Unlike your IT counterparts, who navigate through multiple consoles within intricate, heterogeneous environments, you benefit from a unified management interface for comprehensive oversight.

Sophos' solutions streamline security, focusing on business priorities with a single interface for oversight. Integrated products and Active Threat Response enhance protection.

Sophos Wireless Benefits:

- Robust Protection: Guards against numerous threats.
- Centralized Management: Simplifies network oversight.
- Scalable: Accommodates business growth.
- Reliable: Ensures consistent connectivity.
- Analytics: Provides network insights for strategy.



07 WHY CONTINUOUS MONITORING IS A CYBERSECURITY MUST

Cyber threats are constantly evolving, and traditional security measures are no longer enough. Continuous monitoring acts as your vigilant digital guard. It's constantly checking for weaknesses. It sounds the alarm before attackers exploit them. Here's why continuous monitoring is a cybersecurity must:

- Breaches Happen Fast
- Advanced Threats Need Advanced Defenses
- Compliance Requirements Often Mandate It

- Peace of Mind and Reduced Costs
- Improved Threat Detection Accuracy
- Faster Incident Response
- Enhanced Security Posture
- Compliance Reporting

In today's threat landscape, continuous monitoring is not a luxury. It's a security necessity.

Don't wait for a security breach to be your wake-up call. Embrace continuous monitoring and take control of your cybersecurity posture. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, especially in the digital world.



WE LOVE REFERRALS

As a business that thrives on client satisfaction and word-of-mouth, we kindly invite you to share your positive experiences with colleagues and connections who may benefit from our expertise. If you know of any individuals or organizations seeking a Premier IT Management and Consulting Provider, we would be honored to be referred. Your endorsement is the highest compliment we can receive, and we are committed to extending the same level of excellence to every referral.

For a seamless introduction, please connect us via email at everythingit@virtualdataworks.com, or by clicking the link provided. We guarantee that your referral will be treated with the highest level of care and professionalism, upholding the standard of service excellence we are known for!



[Contact Us!](#)



SEEKING MORE INSIGHT?

Enhance your knowledge in the field of technology with our carefully chosen insights and updates. We encourage you to follow us on social media for Tech Bites Tuesdays, offering you a direct line to the latest technology advancements and innovations. Furthermore, make your Thursdays more informative with our detailed blog posts that offer extensive analysis and progressive outlooks. Engage with us and become a valued member of a community that shares your enthusiasm for technology and its vast possibilities. Embark on your tech adventure with us today.



[Facebook](#)



[LinkedIn](#)



[Twitter](#)

Don't Be Afraid to Ask for Help!

Elevate Your Business
with
Premier Managed IT
Services

