

# Cybersecurity Informational Update

City of Tacoma, Information Technology Department  
Government Performance and Finance Committee  
November 19, 2024

1

## Objectives



CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM RECAP

CURRENT FOCUS AND ACTIVITIES



2

# Information Assurance Program Recap



### Security Assurance

- architecture
- engineering
- procurement and implementation assistance

### Security Operations

- situational awareness
- event handling
- incident response
- threat hunting
- vulnerability management

### Compliance Coordination

- compliance standards SME
- assessment and audit technical coordination
- policy/standards development

### Readiness and Resilience

- awareness
- education
- practice
- planning



3

## Other Program Features

Aligned with recognized standards and best practices


- National Institute for Standards and Technology Cybersecurity Framework (NIST CSF)
- Center for Internet Security Critical Security Controls (CIS CSC)

Top Priorities

- Keep critical services operational and available
- Protect confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information
- Ensure regulations and compliance requirements are met
- Prepare to respond and recover

## 2024 Key Focus Areas

- Ransomware Resilience
- Awareness and Training
- Policies and Standards



4

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5

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6

# Why Focus on Ransomware?

Ransomware continues to be a high-risk concern

- 49 attacks on Washington local governments in 2023\*
- Average downtime experienced after an attack is 22 days\*\*
- Average recovery cost for state and local governments is \$2.83M, excluding any ransom payments\*\*\*



\*WA State OAG 2023 Data Breach Report  
 \*\*Statistica U.S. average length of downtime after a ransomware attack 2022  
 \*\*\*Sophos State of Ransomware in State and Local Government 2024



7

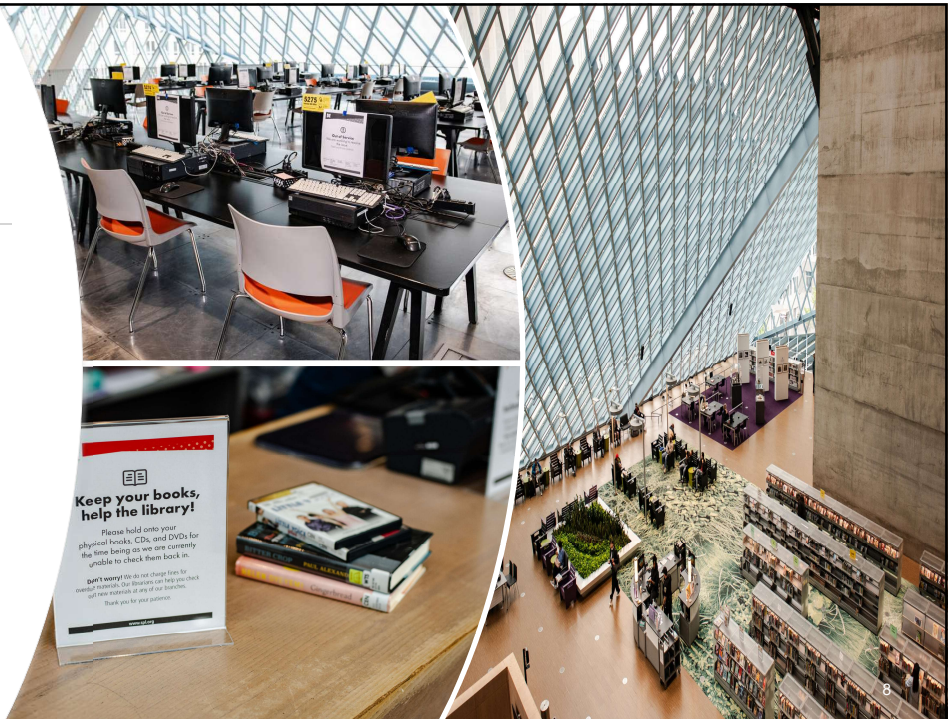
## May 29<sup>th</sup> Seattle Public Library Ransomware Attack

All systems impacted including:

- Website
- Payroll
- Catalog, loaning, and check-in
- Public access computers & WiFi

Employee PII stolen

5-month recovery effort



8



## Aug 24<sup>th</sup> Port of Seattle Ransomware Attack

Major airport operations affected including:

- baggage handling
- check-in kiosks
- ticketing
- Wi-Fi
- passenger display boards

Some non-critical systems remain down after 6 weeks.



9

## Oct 29<sup>th</sup> State of Washington Administrative Office of the Courts

- “Unauthorized activity” detected
- Systems brought offline “out of abundance of caution”
- Statewide impacts to county and municipal court operations
- Some systems returned to normal operation on Nov 18<sup>th</sup> while others remain down.
- A press release states that “there was no detected breach of data and the event did not result in ransomware ...”



10

## SAO Ransomware Resilience Audit

Voluntary assessment  
Measure ability to withstand a ransomware attack

Control area title	What it addresses
1. General ransomware controls	Seven practices that address ransomware prevention and detection to secure a network
2. Preparations for ransomware response	Five practices that, if prepared ahead of a ransomware attack, will result in much faster recovery
3. Securing internet-facing systems	Five practices focused on minimizing the number and nature of points in the organization's IT structure that an attacker might use to gain a foothold in the network
4. Preventing successful social engineering	Two practices aimed at preventing successful social engineering attacks
5. Protection from malware	Three practices that help prevent and detect unwanted software in the organization's network



11

## Assessment Results

- Majority of controls fully or partially implemented
- 10 recommendations for improvement
- No unknown gaps
- All captured and prioritized on cybersecurity workplan



12

## Cybersecurity Awareness Training Helps Prevent Ransomware Attacks

69% of state and local government ransomware attacks can be traced back to poor cyber hygiene

- Weak passwords
- Compromised credentials
- Malicious links and attachments
- Phishing and other social engineering
- Unpatched software and systems



13

## Cybersecurity Awareness Training Info

New courses for 2024. Required for all technology users including employees, contractors, interns, and temps.

### Progress as of Nov 15, 2024

**TPU** (Aug 1 – Oct 31 training period)

- % completion - **100%**

**City Gen Government** (Sept 16 – Nov 30 training period)

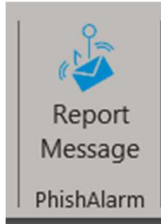
- % completion – **80%**



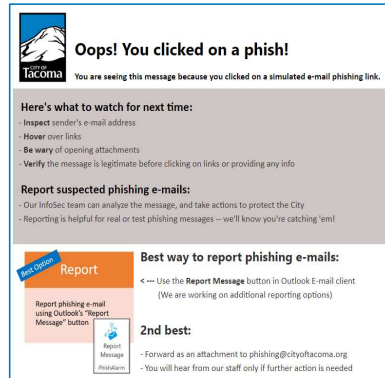
14

# Training Goals

Report Suspicious Emails



Practice Phishing Message Recognition



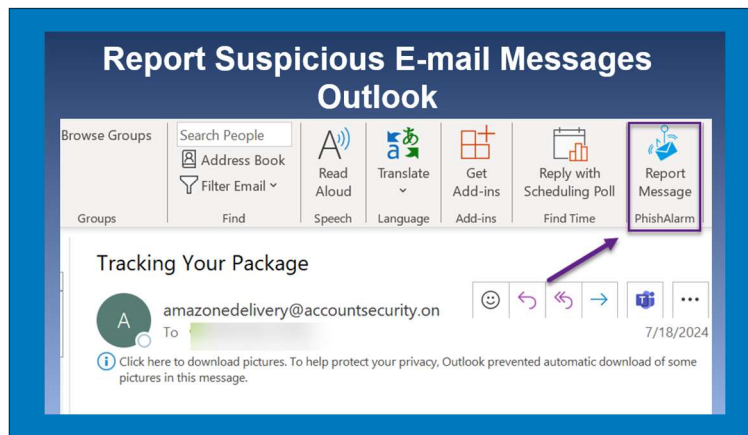
Inform about Policy and Standards Updates

Name	Quick Facts
Technology Acceptable Use	Updated in 2024
Use of Generative AI ML Systems	Added in 2024
Mobile Device Policy	Updated in 2024
Information Classification	Added in 2024
Technology Incident Response	Added in 2024
Password Strength & Protection	Updated in 2024



15

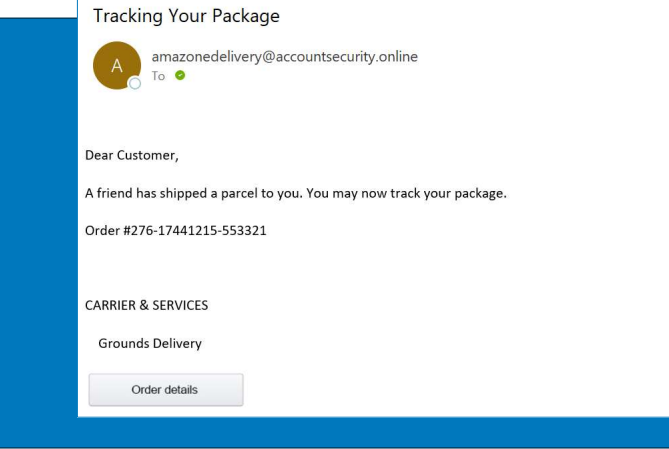
# Training Goal: Report Suspicious Emails



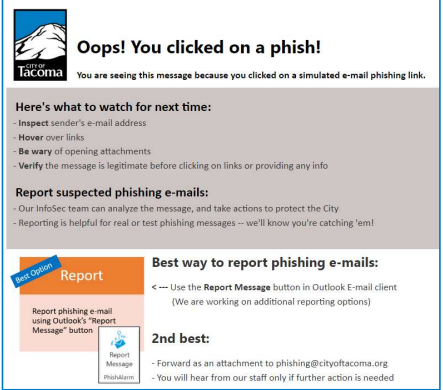
16




## Training Goal: Recognize Phishing Messages Through Practice



### Education Page for





17

## Training Goal: Understand Policy & Standards Updates

Policies, Standards, & Guidelines provide important direction and guidance to employees

Number	Name	Document Type	Quick Facts
#4.1	<b>Technology Acceptable Use</b>	Policy	Updated in 2024, training available
#4.1-GD-2	<b>Use of Generative AI ML Systems</b>	Guideline	Added in 2024, training available
#4.20	<b>Mobile Device Policy</b>	Policy	Updated in 2024, training available
#4.30	<b>Information Classification</b>	Policy	Added in 2024, training available
#4.40	<b>Technology Incident Response</b>	Policy	Added in 2024, training available
#4.50-ST-01	<b>Password Strength &amp; Protection</b>	Standard	Updated in 2024, distributed to all staff, ongoing effort to implement & train - (one year estimated)



18

# Resources: Tacoma Hub / Information Assurance Page

## One Stop Shop for

- ✓ Cybersecurity News
- ✓ Policy Links
- ✓ Policy Training Links
- ✓ Phish Detective Articles
- ✓ How-to Information

[Information Assurance - Home \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

The screenshot shows a SharePoint page titled "CyberSecurity News". It features several news items and training links. Key items include:

- Cybersecurity Awareness Training Friday Countdown Reports by Department** (with virtual music!)
- Cybersecurity Training: Friday Countdown Reports** (with virtual music)
- Phish Detective: Securing Your Home Wi-Fi**
- Phish Detective: How MFA halts Hacker Hugo** (a story)
- Tech Policy Training** section with links for:
  - Tech Policies Decoded: All Staff Course (23 min - on demand training)
  - Tech Policies Decoded: Supervisors & Managers (27 min - on demand training)
  - Missions Possible - Tech Incident Response Policy (19 min - on demand training)
- Helpful Tips** section with links for:
  - Free Sophos Antivirus Software for City Employees
  - How to Report a Suspicious Email Message
  - How to Use KeePass Safe Password Manager
- Technology Risk Advisory Board (TRAB)** Governance board for technology risk
- Technology & Security Policies**
- CISA Executive Director Brand...** (2024-Proposed cybersecurity reporting requirements for Critical Infrastructure)

19



20