



American Water Works
Association

Dedicated to the World's Most Important Resource®

Managing Cybersecurity Risks in the Water Sector

Learning Objectives

Recognize	Why cybersecurity is an important element of drinking water and wastewater utility operations and management
Explain	How AWWA's Guidance and Tool supports cybersecurity risk management
Identify	Cybersecurity resources, including support for small systems
Utilize	Recommended guidance to support implementation of a cybersecurity risk management plan



A. Cyber Threat Landscape



#1 Threat Facing Critical Infrastructure

- Intelligence threat assessment
 - Criminal: Financial Motivation
 - Malevolent: Operational Impact
- All is not lost, it about Risk Management not Risk Elimination
 - Best practices exist and need to be implemented
 - 100% Threat Likelihood...assume it will happen



Cyber Threat Landscape Snapshot

March 2021, Kansas Man Indicted for Tampering with Public Water System

- Terminated employee with active remote access credentials shut down the disinfection treatment process Post Rock Rural Water District.
- Hacker has been charged with one count of tampering with a public water system and one count of reckless damage to a protected computer during unauthorized access.

March 2021, Microsoft Exchange Exploit

- Four zero-day vulnerabilities in Microsoft Exchange Server were actively exploited by a state-sponsored threat group from China and appear to have been adopted by other cyberattackers in widespread attacks. Microsoft stated that the stolen credentials can allow attacker to hijack the system and execute commands remotely.

Feb 2021, Oldsmar (FL) Water Utility Operating System Breached

- Attempt to alter dosing of sodium hydroxide.
- Proximity to Superbowl brings major federal support and media attention

Dec 2020, Solarwinds Hack

- Russian attack compromises 18,000 entities including multiple Federal Agencies
- Highly sophisticated attack targeting the code in update for IT software mgt system



OLDSMAR, FLORIDA CYBER INCIDENT – FEB 5, 2021



What happened?

- Unauthorized access to SCADA by unknown cyber actor
- Increased sodium hydroxide level from 100 ppm to 1,100 ppm
- Operator observed the change and corrected dose rate
- Law enforcement notified
- Also was Super Bowl weekend in Tampa

How did it happen?

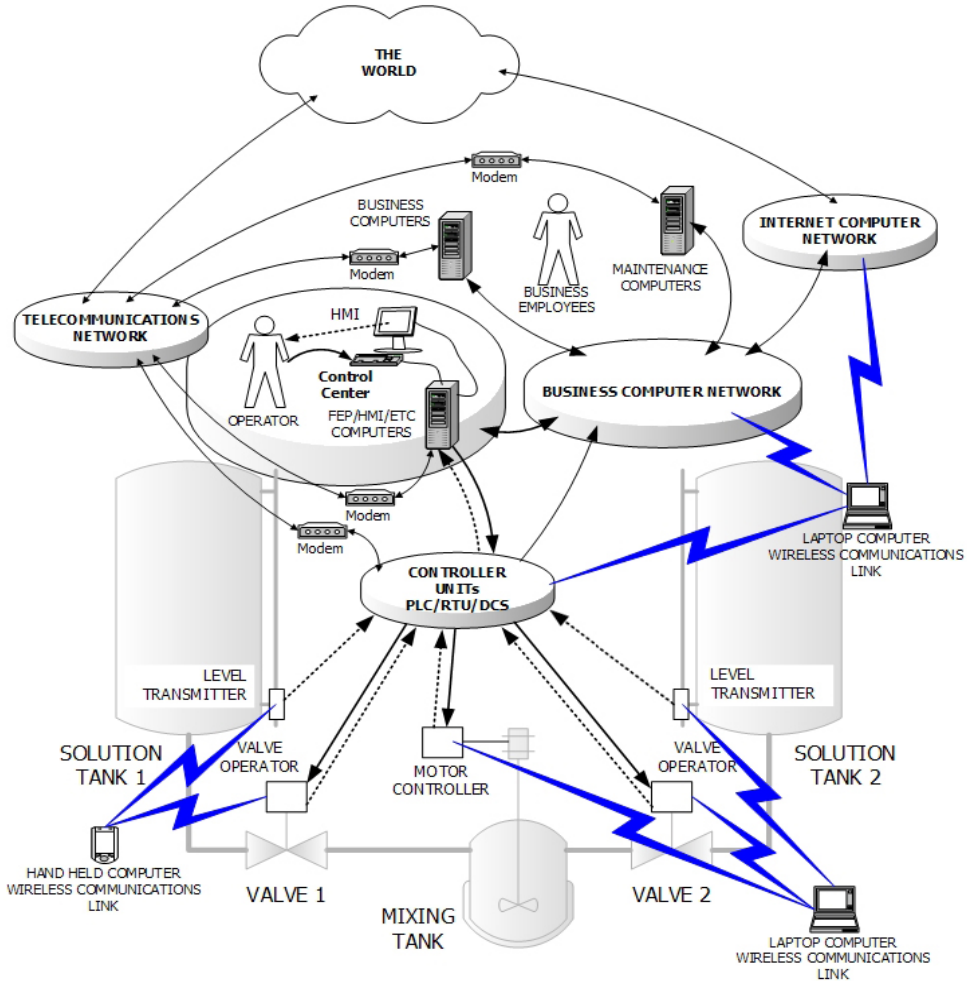
- Unsecured desktop sharing tool, TeamViewer, was exploited to gain access
- Outdated Windows 7 operating system (support ended Jan 2020)
- Poor password security

Mitigations

- Keep software updated
- Use strong passwords to protect Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP) credentials
- Use multiple factor authentication
- Ensure anti-virus, spam filters, and firewalls are up to date, properly configured, and secure
- Audit network configurations and isolate computer systems that cannot be updated
- Train users to identify and report attempts at social engineering



REALITY: CONNECTIVITY = EXPOSURE



- Enterprise Systems

- Employee Payroll
- Service Contracts
- Customer Billing
- LIMS etc

- Process Control Systems

- SCADA
- AMR/AMI
- Telecommunications
- HVAC

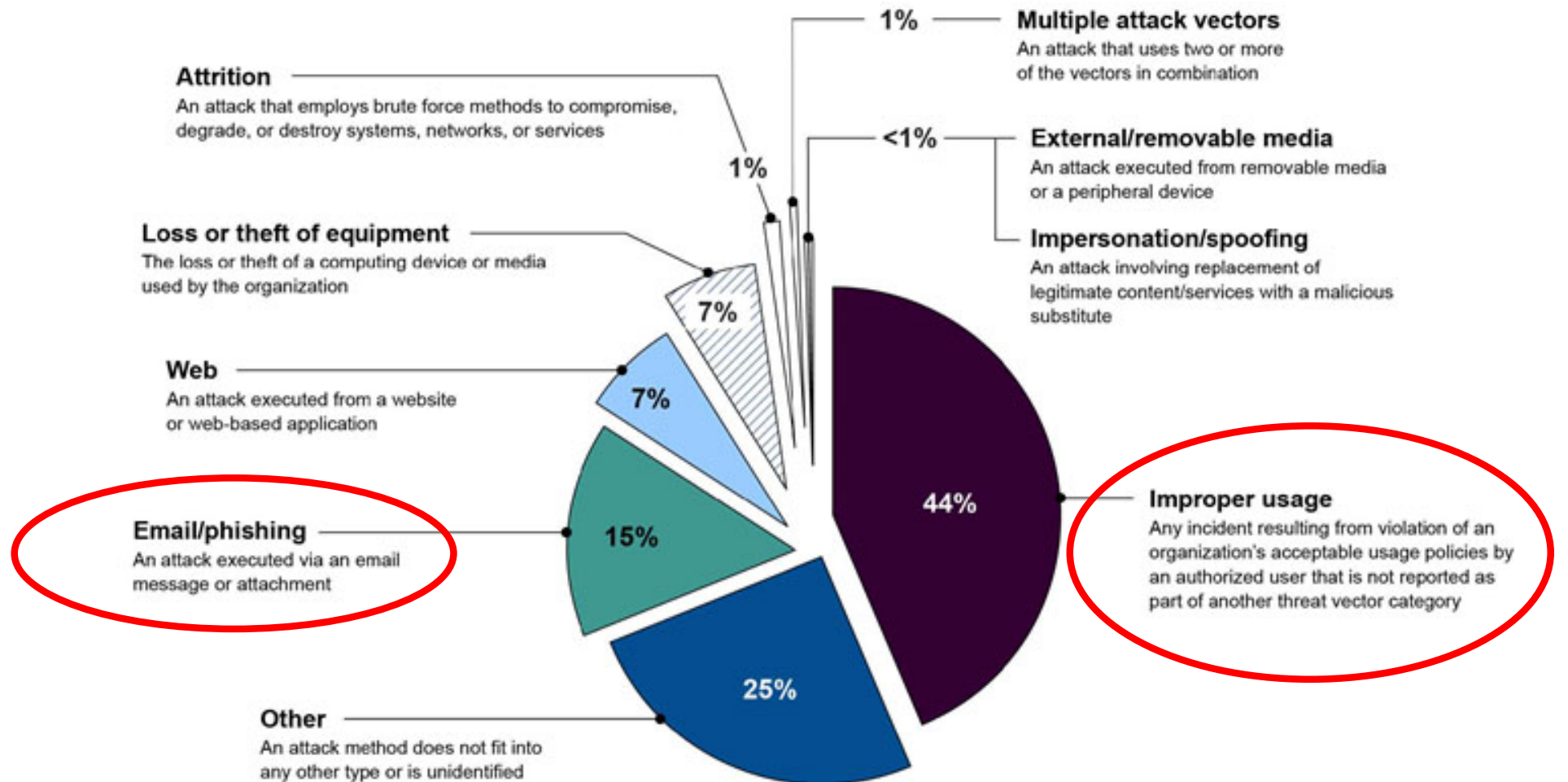
Source: ICS-CERT



PROFILE OF CYBERSECURITY INCIDENTS

US
FEDERAL
AGENCY
SYSTEMS
FY19

28,581 total information security incidents



Source: GAO analysis of United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team and Office of Management and Budget data for fiscal year 2019.

B. Policy Landscape



KEY DRIVERS FOR CYBERSECURITY

- ***Bioterrorism Act of 2002***

- Required vulnerability assessment that included threats to *electronic, computer, or other automated systems*

- ***EO 13636: Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity (Feb 2013)***

- Charges NIST with creating the Cybersecurity Framework

- ***America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, Section 2013***

- Updates BT Act and expands scope of cyber threat assessment to include:
 - *Monitoring practices of the system, and*
 - *Financial Infrastructure*
- ERP must include
 - *strategies and resources to improve the resilience of the system*
 - *actions, procedures, and equipment which can obviate or significantly lessen the impact of an incident*



KEY DRIVERS FOR CYBERSECURITY

- **Cyberspace Solarium Commission (2020-21)**
 - Preparing legislative recommendations to enhance cybersecurity across the USG and critical infrastructure; active review of water sector ongoing
- **Department of Homeland Security (2021)**
 - Announced series of cybersecurity “sprints”, which will include actions to improve the resilience of industrial control systems in the water sector.
- **National Security Council (2021)**
 - Developing a plan to address “integrity” of industrial control systems in the water and power sectors.
- **S. 914 - Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021**
 - Create prioritized framework by EPA and DHS



America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, §2013[#]

Community Water System (pop. served)*	Certify Risk & Resilience Assessment (RRA) prior to:	Certify ERP within 6 months of RRA, but not later than:
>100K	✓ March 31, 2020	✓ September 30, 2020
50,000 – 99,999	✓ December 31, 2020	June 30, 2021
3,300 – 49,999	June 30, 2021	December 30, 2021

* Wholesalers use pop of all systems

Must review, update & recertify every 5 years



What must a Utility Assess?

The Risks to, and Resilience of, its system considering:

- malevolent acts and natural hazards;
- resilience of the pipes and constructed conveyances, physical barriers, source water, water collection and intake, pretreatment, treatment, storage and distribution facilities, electronic, computer, or other automated systems;
- the monitoring practices of the system;
- the financial infrastructure of the system;
- the use, storage, or handling of various chemicals by the system; and
- the operation and maintenance of the system; and
- may include an evaluation of capital and operational needs for risk and resilience management.



Definitions (*not specified in statute*)

- **Monitoring practices of the system** means any systems that the utility uses to monitor operations such as water quality, security surveillance systems, access control systems, cyber security systems, energy management systems, or others.
- **Financial Infrastructure** means the accounting and financial business systems operated by a utility, such as customer billing and payment systems that may be vulnerable to cybersecurity threats.



What must the ERP include?

- strategies and resources to improve the resilience of the system, including the physical security and cybersecurity of the system;
- plans and procedures that can be implemented, and identification of equipment that can be utilized, in the event of a malevolent act or natural hazard that threatens the ability of the community water system to deliver safe drinking water;
- actions, procedures, and equipment which can obviate or significantly lessen the impact of a malevolent act or natural hazard on the public health and the safety and supply of drinking water provided to communities and individuals, including the development of alternative source water options, relocation of water intakes, and construction of flood protection barriers; and
- strategies that can be used to aid in the detection of malevolent acts or natural hazards that threaten the security or resilience of the system.



C. Water Sector Approach



RISK & RESILIENCE ⇔ ALL-HAZARDS APPROACH



AWWA RISK & RESILIENCE RESOURCE SUITE



FOUNDATION FOR DUE DILIGENCE



ANSI/AWWA G430: Security Practices for Operation & Management

- Information protection and continuity is a requirement



ANSI/AWWA J100: Risk & Resilience Management of Water & Wastewater Systems

- Cyber is required threat domain

ANSI/AWWA G440: Emergency Preparedness Practices

- Consideration of key business & operating system recovery



Cybersecurity Risk & Responsibility in the Water Sector

- Utility has fiduciary responsibility to manage cyber risks



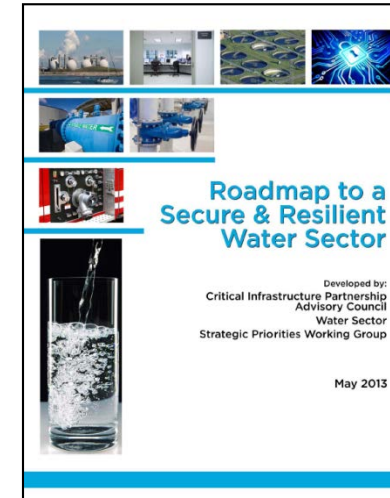
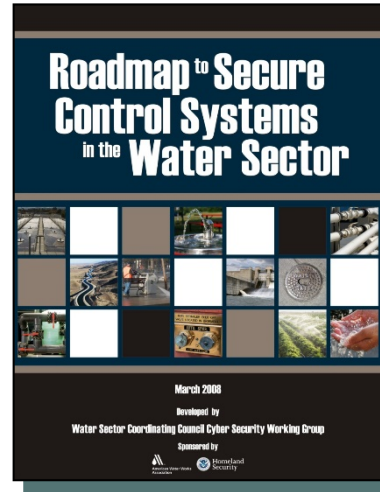
Water Sector Cybersecurity Risk Management Guidance

- Supports voluntary adoption of NIST Cybersecurity Framework
- Addresses cyber provision in AWIA §2013



WATER SECTOR & CYBERSECURITY

- Y2K
- BT Act 2002

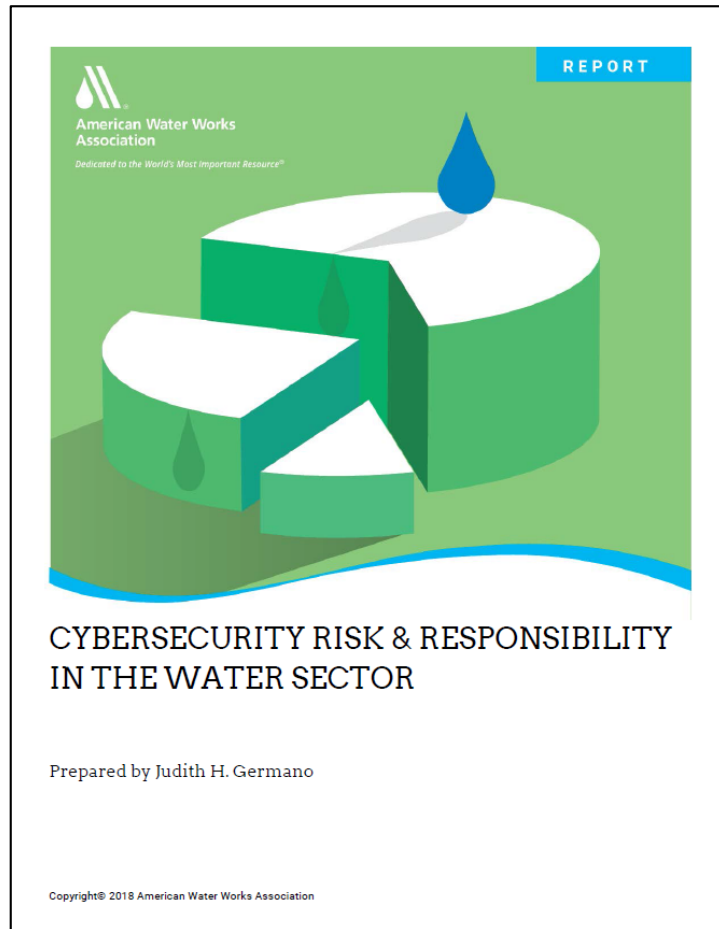


2008 Critical Milestone
Develop a recommended practices ICS security template for widespread use in the water sector

2013 & 2017 #1 Priority
Advance the development of sector-specific cybersecurity resources



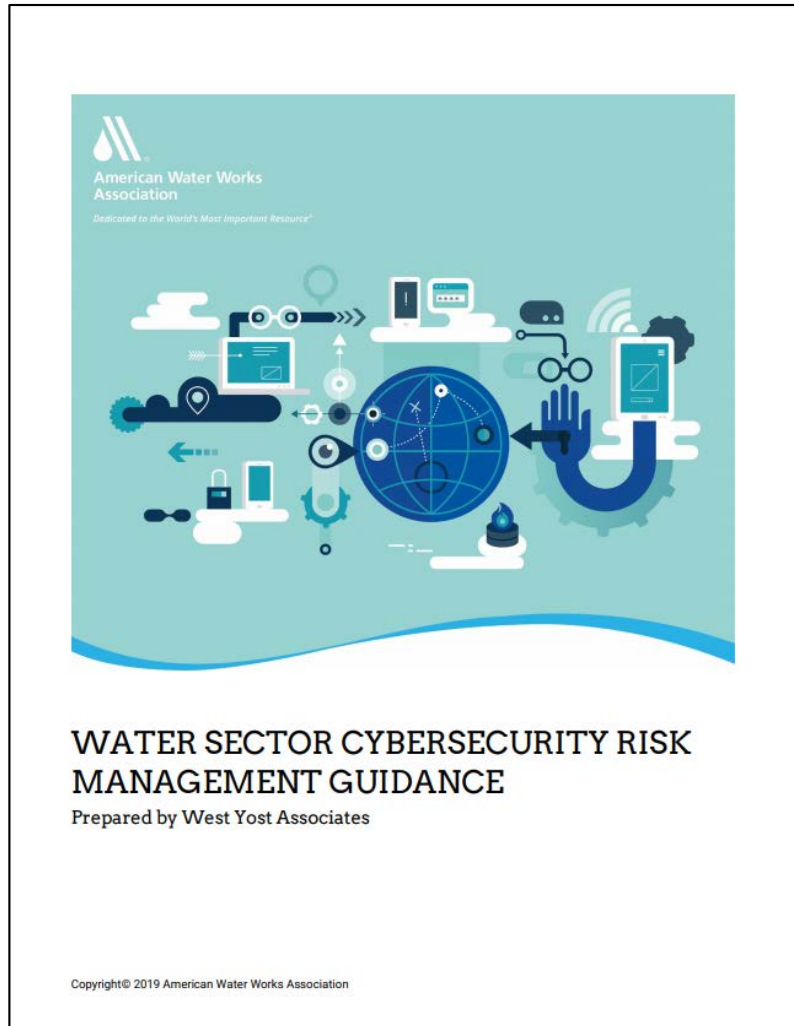
CYBERSECURITY RISK & RESPONSIBILITY



- Cyber Threats are Foreseeable
- Implement Best Practices
- Demonstrate Due Diligence
- Insurance provides some risk transfer
- Sovereign Immunity is not option
- ***Fiduciary Responsibility***



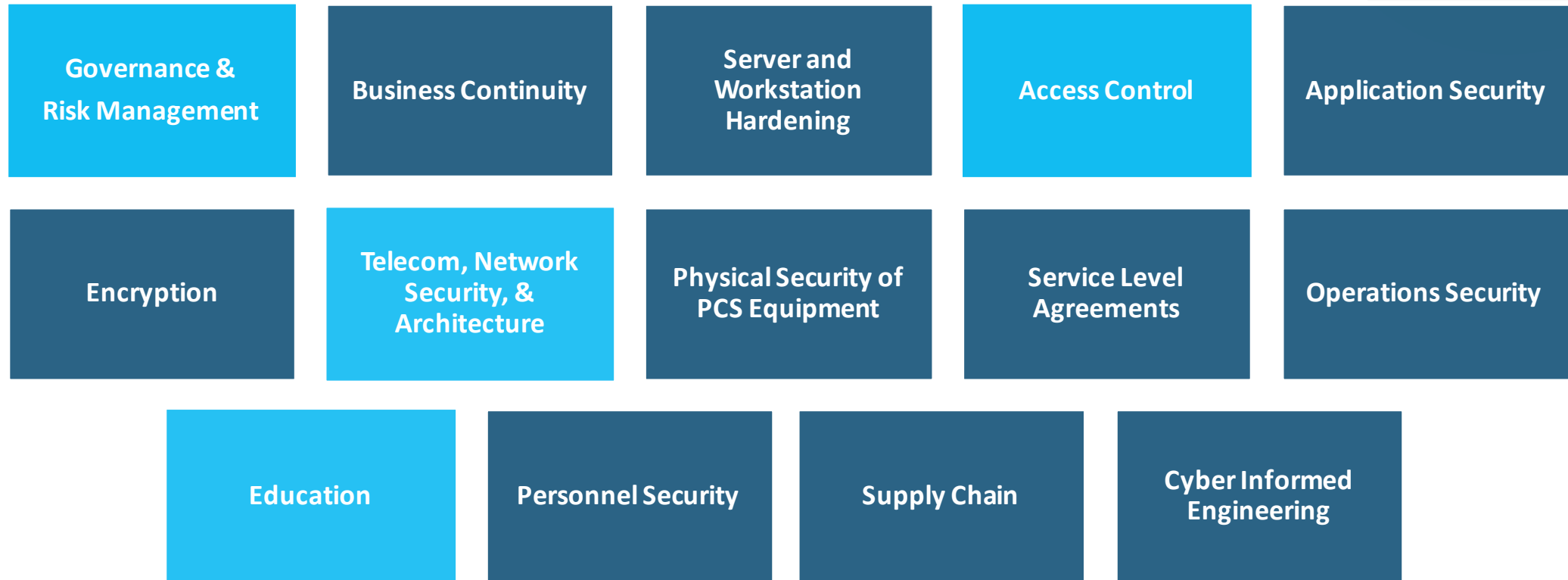
IMPLEMENTING BEST PRACTICE



- **Recognized by USEPA, DHS, NIST and multiple states.**
- Provides a consistent and repeatable recommended course of action to reduce vulnerabilities in process control systems.
- Fulfills need for sector-specific guidance as specified in EO 13636, and aligns with national priorities.



14 CORE PRACTICE CATEGORIES



The Self-Assessment Questionnaire – Example

1. Are any data transferred to or from your Process Control System network, by any electronic means?

Additional Details:

- Examples of electronic data transfer include both automatic (e.g. automated export of data from the PCS environment) and manual (e.g. transfer of data to/from the PCS environment via thumb drive). Examples of data that may be transferred include:
 - Water quality data collected by the PCS and transferred for regulatory reporting
 - Asset performance data for asset management
 - Operating system/software patches and updates

Yes

No




AWWA Tool Controls

Controls are based on standards published by the following agencies:


- AWWA
- DHS
- IEC
- INL
- ISA
- ISO
- NIST
- PCI DSS



Control Recommendation Priorities



Priority 1:
IMPLEMENT
IMMEDIATELY



Priority 2:
Significant
increase in
security of
organization



Priority 3:
Foundation
for managed
security
system



Priority 4:
Protection for
sophisticated,
but less
common
attacks



HOW DO YOU USE THE AWWA CYBERSECURITY ASSESSMENT TOOL?



Step 1 – Go to www.awwa.org/cybersecurity



The screenshot shows the AWWA website header with the logo, a search bar, and navigation links. The main navigation menu includes: Membership & Volunteering, Events & Education, Resources & Tools, Professional Development, Publications, and Policy & Advocacy. The top navigation bar includes: Shop, Give, About Us, Career Center, Cart, LOGIN, and JOIN. The main content area features a large blue banner with the text "CYBERSECURITY & GUIDANCE" and a breadcrumb trail: Resources & Tools / Resource Topics / Risk & Resilience / Cybersecurity & Guidance.

AWWA Resources on Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity is the top threat facing business and critical infrastructure in the United States, according to reports and testimony from the Director of National Intelligence, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security. All water systems should act to examine cybersecurity vulnerabilities and develop a cybersecurity risk management program.

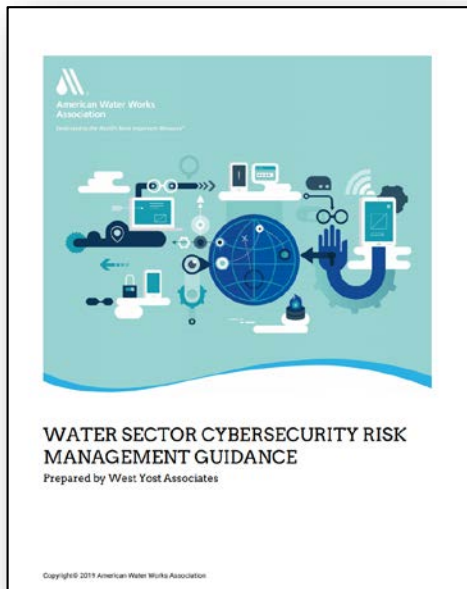
Related Resources

[Risk & Resilience](#)



Step 2 – Answer the Self-Assessment Questionnaire

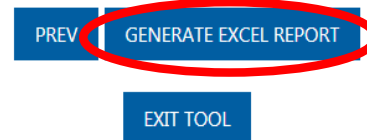
A. Read the guidance!



B. Answer 22 total questions

C. Generate your output file including recommended controls

By clicking on the "Generate Excel Report" button, your browser will automatically generate a report in Microsoft Excel format. The report will be automatically downloaded to your default "Downloads" file location. Depending on the browser and version you are using these files will either appear at the bottom of the browser window or you will need to find them in your default "Downloads" file location. Generating this report does not complete the assessment or meet the intent of the America's Water Infrastructure Act Risk and Resilience Assessment or Emergency Response Plan compliance requirements. To complete your America's Water Infrastructure Act-compliant Risk and Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan, please open the Excel file and follow the instructions beginning on the first tab. Please refer to the AWWA Water Sector Cybersecurity Risk Management Guidance document for additional details.



Tool Output – What is it? What isn't it?

- ✓ List of recommended, prioritized controls based on user to the Self-Assessment Questionnaire
- ✓ Great start to an AWIA-compliant RRA & ERP

- ✓ The Tool does not automatically assess which recommended controls the utility may already have in place
- ✓ The Tool does not provide specific information on how a recommended control should be implemented

Completion of the Self-Assessment Questionnaire does not provide AWIA compliance



Step 3 – Determine Control Status

Recommended Controls	Additional Details/Examples	Priority	Control Status	Improvement Project	Control References
AT-3 : A forensic program established to ensure that evidence is collected/handled in accordance with pertinent laws in case of an incident requiring civil or criminal action.	A SCADA tech believes a machine is infected. Based on their training, they remove the machine from the network and report it to IT without powering it off to avoid deleting evidence.	1		Governance and Risk Management	<i>DHSCAT-2.7.7</i>
AU-1 : Audit program established to ensure information systems are compliant with policies and standards and to minimize disruption of operations.	IT schedules an independent review and examination of records and activities to assess the adequacy of system controls and to ensure compliance with established policies.	1		Security	<i>ISA62443-3-3.6, NIST800-82.6.2.3</i>
AU-2 : Framework of information security policies, procedures, and controls including management's initial and periodic approval established to provide governance, exercise periodic review, dissemination, and coordination of	A third-party system integrator asks the SCADA tech to email a document with sensitive network information. The SCADA tech refuses and notifies integrator of the secure file transfer system in place.	1		Governance and Risk Management	<i>DHSCAT-2.1, ISOIEC27.27001.AA.A.5</i>
AU-3 : Governance framework to disseminate/decentralize decision making while maintaining executive authority and strategic control and ensure that managers follow the security policies and enforce the execution of security procedures within their area of responsibility.	Data security policy and controls are in place to prevent sharing of private or sensitive data outside of the organization.	1		Governance and Risk Management	<i>ISA62443-2-1.A.3.2.3, ISOIEC27.27005.WD, NIST800-53.J.AR-1</i>

Input control status in this column

1. Start Here	2. RRA-Control Output	3. RRA-Control Status Summary	4. ERP-Improvement Projects
5. Project Implementation Form	6. Declaration of Due Diligence	7. User Answer Summary	



Control Status Options

- 1. Not Planned and/or Not Implemented – Risk Accepted** – The controls are not currently implemented or planned for implementation. The organization accepts risks associated with the controls not being implemented.
- 2. Planned and Not Implemented** – The controls is currently planned for future implementation.
- 3. Partially Implemented** – The controls are partially implemented by internal or external resources.
- 4. Fully Implemented and Maintained** – The controls are fully implemented and actively maintained by internal or external resources.



STATUS CHECK & DUE DILIGENCE

Control Status Summary:

The second table summarizes the user defined implementation status of the recommended controls from the RRA- Control Output tab. The colors provide a visual indication of the recommended controls with the associated status.

	Total Controls Not Fully Implemented	Not Planned and/or Not Implemented - Risk Accepted	Controls Planned and Not Implemented	Controls Partially Implemented	Controls Fully Implemented and Maintained
Priority 1 Controls	22	0	15	7	13
Priority 2 Controls	6	7	6	0	18
Priority 3 Controls	17	0	0	17	3
Priority 4 Controls	2	7	0	2	0
% of Recommended Controls Currently "Fully Implemented and Maintained":				36	%
% Recommended Controls that are "Partially Implemented" or "Planned and not Implemented":				49	%
% Recommended Controls that are "Not Planned and/or Not Implemented - Risk Accepted":				15	%
Controls Missing Implementation Status:				0	

Not Planned and/or Not Implemented – Risk Accepted

The controls are not currently implemented or planned for implementation. The organization accepts risks associated with the controls not being implemented.

Planned and Not Implemented

Priority 1 or Priority 2 controls that have not been implemented; however, implementation of the controls are planned.

Planned and Not Implemented/

Priority 1 or Priority 2 controls that are partially implemented by internal or external resources. Priority 3 or Priority 4 controls that are neither planned nor implemented.

Partially Implemented –

Partially Implemented –

Priority 3 or Priority 4 controls that are partially implemented by internal or external resources.

Fully Implemented and

Maintained –

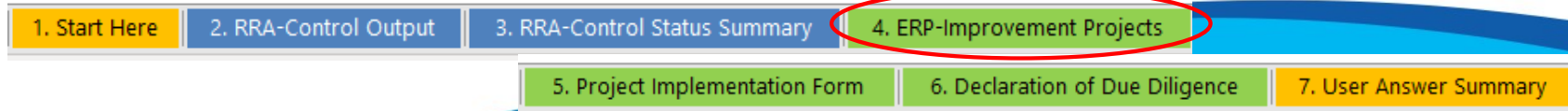
The controls are fully implemented and actively maintained by internal or external resources.



Step 4 – Design Improvement Projects

Cyber Risk Management Improvement Projects		
Projects by total number of controls		
Project Number	Improvement Project	Number of controls project addresses
1	Governance and Risk Management Improvements Projects	0
2	Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Improvements Projects	0
3	Server and Workstation Hardening Improvements Projects	0
4	Access Control Improvements Projects	0
5	Application Security Improvements Projects	0
6	Encryption Improvements Projects	0

Controls Addressed by Project						
	Improvement Project	Recommended Controls	Additional Details/Examples	Priority	Control Status	Control References
7						
8						
9						
10	Telecommunications, Network Security, and Architecture	SC-14 : Network segregation. Firewalls, deep packet inspection and/or application proxy gateways.	"Whitelisting" of network components is done to manage data transfer between and within network segments.	1	Partially Implemented	Telecommunications, Network Security, and Architecture
11						
12						
13	Telecommunications, Network Security, and Architecture	SC-18 : Minimize wireless network coverage.	Tests are conducted regularly to determine if the WiFi signals reach outside the intended area of use. If the signal reaches outside the intended area, the signal is turned down accordingly.	1	Partially Implemented	Telecommunications, Network Security, and Architecture
14						



OPTIONAL Step 5 – Project Implementation Form

		Date	10/16/2019
		Facility/System/Utility:	ACME Water Company
Project Name			
Project No.			
Project Owner (dept./name)			
Project Description			
Priority			
# of Priority 1 Controls Addressed			
Anticipated Start Date			
Duration	# of weeks/months/years		
Additional Description	The project will...		
Impacted Stakeholders	Example: IT, Operations, Engineer, etc.		
Cost Estimate to Implement and Maintain	IMPLEMENTATION COSTS		\$
	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE COSTS		\$
	PROJECT USEFUL LIFE		# of years
Potential Funding Source/s	Example: Capital budget, grants, etc.		

1. Start Here

2. RRA-Control Output

3. RRA-Control Status Summary

4. ERP-Improvement Projects

5. Project Implementation Form

6. Declaration of Due Diligence

7. User Answer Summary



OPTIONAL Step 6: Declaration of Due Diligence

OPTIONAL: Cybersecurity Risk Management – Declaration of Due Diligence

The following draft Declaration of Due Diligence is provided for use with the AWWA Tool output. The draft communication is intended to facilitate communication with utility decision makers and support long-term cybersecurity risk management. **Please note: The beginning of the Declaration of Due Diligence will show a "#DIV/0!" error until Tab 2. RRA-Control Output is completed.**

Declaration of Due Diligence Template:

Recently, Acme Water Utility used the AWWA Cybersecurity Tool to assess our current cybersecurity practices. Based on the findings of the assessment, we have 10% of the recommended controls currently 'fully implemented and maintained.' At the same time, we have 90% recommended controls that are either 'partially implemented' or 'planned and not implemented.'

As noted in the Cybersecurity Risk and Responsibility in the Water Sector :

“Government intelligence confirms the water and wastewater sector is under a direct threat as part of a foreign government’s multi-stage intrusion campaign, and individual criminal actors and groups threaten the security of our nation’s water and wastewater systems’ operations and data.”

Therefore, our department/group/division strongly recommends implementation of the highest priority controls recommended by the AWWA Tool with a current status of “partially implemented” or “planned and not implemented.”

We recommend that the following steps be taken to improve our cybersecurity risk management:

1. Develop well-defined projects for implementation.
2. Fund the projects.
3. Procure equipment and/or contractors, as needed, to support implementation of the projects.
4. Implement the projects and maintain the new controls.
5. Revisit our AWWA Cybersecurity Tool on a regular basis to document our progress relative to the industry standard.

The attached output from the AWWA Cybersecurity Tool provides a list of recommended controls for implementation. In addition, projects were developed to provide additional cyber risk mitigation.

1. Start Here

2. RRA-Control Output

3. RRA-Control Status Summary

4. ERP-Improvement Projects

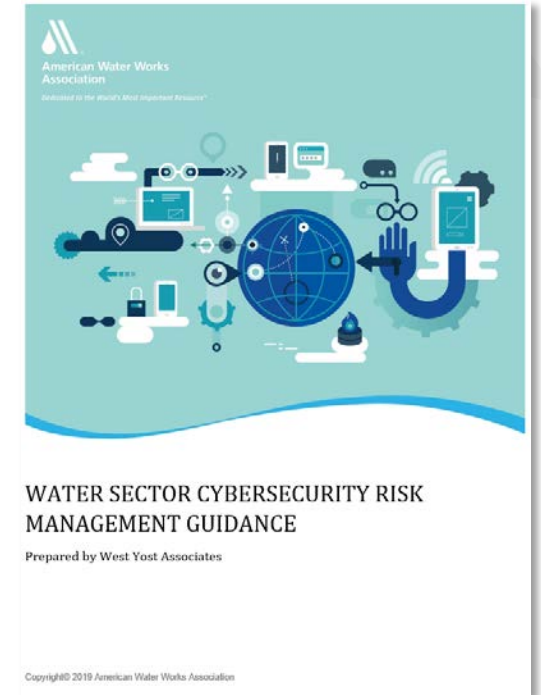
5. Project Implementation Form

6. Declaration of Due Diligence

7. User Answer Summary



THE GOAL – PROGRESS ON CYBERSECURITY PRACTICES



INCREASING CYBERSECURITY MATURITY →

Adopted from SANS.org.



Key Incident Response Contacts

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

FBI Field Office Cyber Task Forces:

<http://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field>

Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3)

<http://www.ic3.gov>

National Cyber Investigative Joint Task Force

NCIJTF CyWatch 24/7 Command Center:

(855) 292-3937 or cywatch@ic.fbi.gov

National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC)

NCCIC: (888) 282-0870 or NCCIC@hq.dhs.gov

United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team:

<http://www.us-cert.gov>

State Fusion Center

State and major urban area fusion centers (fusion centers) are owned and operated by state and local entities, and are designated by the governor of their state.

<https://www.dhs.gov/fusion-center-locations-and-contact-information>



Questions

Kevin M. Morley, PhD

Manager, Federal Relations

AWWA – Government Affairs

202-628-8303 or kmorley@awwa.org

www.awwa.org/risk

www.awwa.org/cybersecurity

