



# 9 BUILDING BLOCKS of an Effective Cybersecurity Program

Cybersecurity management can seem complicated. How do you make sure you've covered all the bases? Whether you're in a small business or large organization, these are the 9 building blocks of every effective cybersecurity program.

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## CHOOSE AND USE A CYBERSECURITY CONTROLS FRAMEWORK

The foundation of your cybersecurity program is your controls framework, which is a checklist for your cybersecurity program. Once you've picked a framework, use it! Conduct controls assessments regularly and track your progress over time.

## ASSESS YOUR RISK (OFTEN)

Conduct an information security risk assessment at least annually, to identify your risks and develop a mitigation plan. Use a widely accepted risk assessment and management framework, such as NIST SP 800-30.

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## PREPARE FOR A BREACH

Every day, another company gets hacked and makes the news. Plan ahead! Create formal policies and procedures for cybersecurity incident response. Train your first responders. Conduct tabletop exercises.

## TEST YOUR SECURITY

Does reality match what's on paper? Conduct technical security testing. This can include penetration tests, vulnerability assessments, web application assessments, social engineering testing, and more.

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## TRAIN YOUR STAFF AND CUSTOMERS

Humans are the most critical component of your security infrastructure. Conduct cybersecurity awareness training regularly for all of your employees, IT staff, and (yes!) even your customers.

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## KEEP TRACK OF YOUR DATA

Identify sensitive information and track where it is stored, processed, and transmitted. Make sure to include mobile devices and USB drives. Decide if staff may access and store data using personal devices.



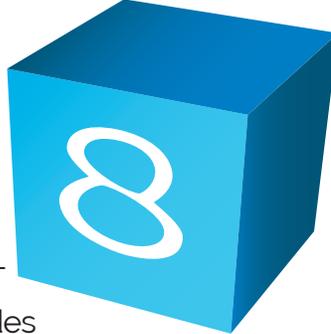
## MAINTAIN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Make sure to document your organization's cybersecurity policies and procedures and follow them. You can purchase policy templates, or have a professional create them for you. Update your policies and procedures routinely.



## MONITOR YOUR IT

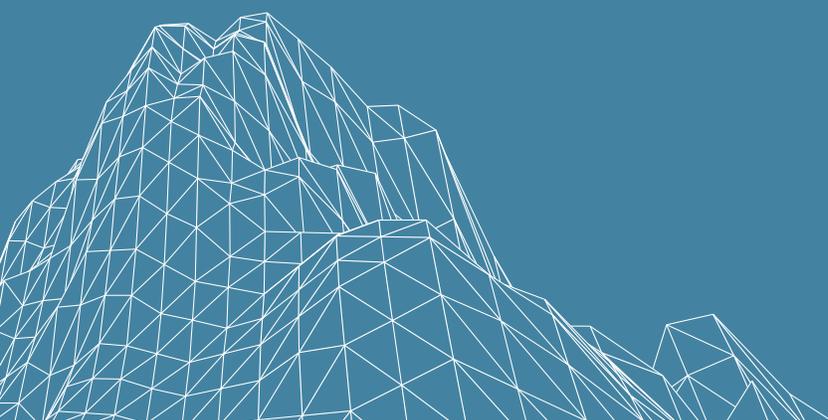
How do you know if you have a cybersecurity problem? Monitor your IT infrastructure. This includes network monitoring as well as security software installed on desktop, mobile devices and servers. Make sure that you budget for staff or a third party to respond to alerts.



## GET INSURANCE

You can't solve information security issues overnight.

Transfer risk to a third party by purchasing cybersecurity insurance. Make sure the policy you select covers your highest-risk scenarios. Have an experienced cybersecurity professional review your policy.



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