



## Information Technology **Cybersecurity and Preventive Security Measures**

Presented by  
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### Agenda



1. Recent victims in Minnesota
2. Dakota County response City of St Paul's Incident
3. Dakota County strategic plan
4. Simulated phishing email program



## Key Takeaways



- Cyber incidents on the rise
- Bad actors targeting govt sectors
- There is no easy solution
- Staff are the last line of defense



## Recent Victims in Minnesota



June 2025

### **Mower County – Ransom Paid**

- Records Management System locked/inaccessible
- HIPAA data stolen Roughly 500 residents impacted
- Systems impacted for 4 weeks

July 2025

### **City of St Paul – Ransom Not Paid**

- Department drive from Parks and Recreation stolen and leaked
- Systems inaccessible for 3 weeks
- Employees forced to take Flex Leave
  - ✓ Augmented staff with National Guard
  - ✓ Rebuilt the environment from backups
  - ✓ Implemented advanced cybersecurity software on devices



## Dakota County Response



- Activated Information Security **Incident Response Team** (ISIRT)
- Performed detailed **log analysis**
- Enhanced **email filtering**



## Dakota County Strategic Plan



- April 30, 2025 – Completed tabletop (**simulation**) exercise
- Engaging in ongoing **collaboration** with State and Federal partners
- Monitoring the constantly evolving threat landscape which requires evolving **countermeasures**



## Simulated Phishing Email Program



- **Expanded phishing program** starting Aug 1, 2025
  - Testing staff with a simulated phishing email once **every 2 weeks**
  - Implemented enhanced **consequences** for failing a simulated email
- Added an email **reporting button** to Outlook on the Web



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Q & A



QUESTIONS &

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**COMMENTS**