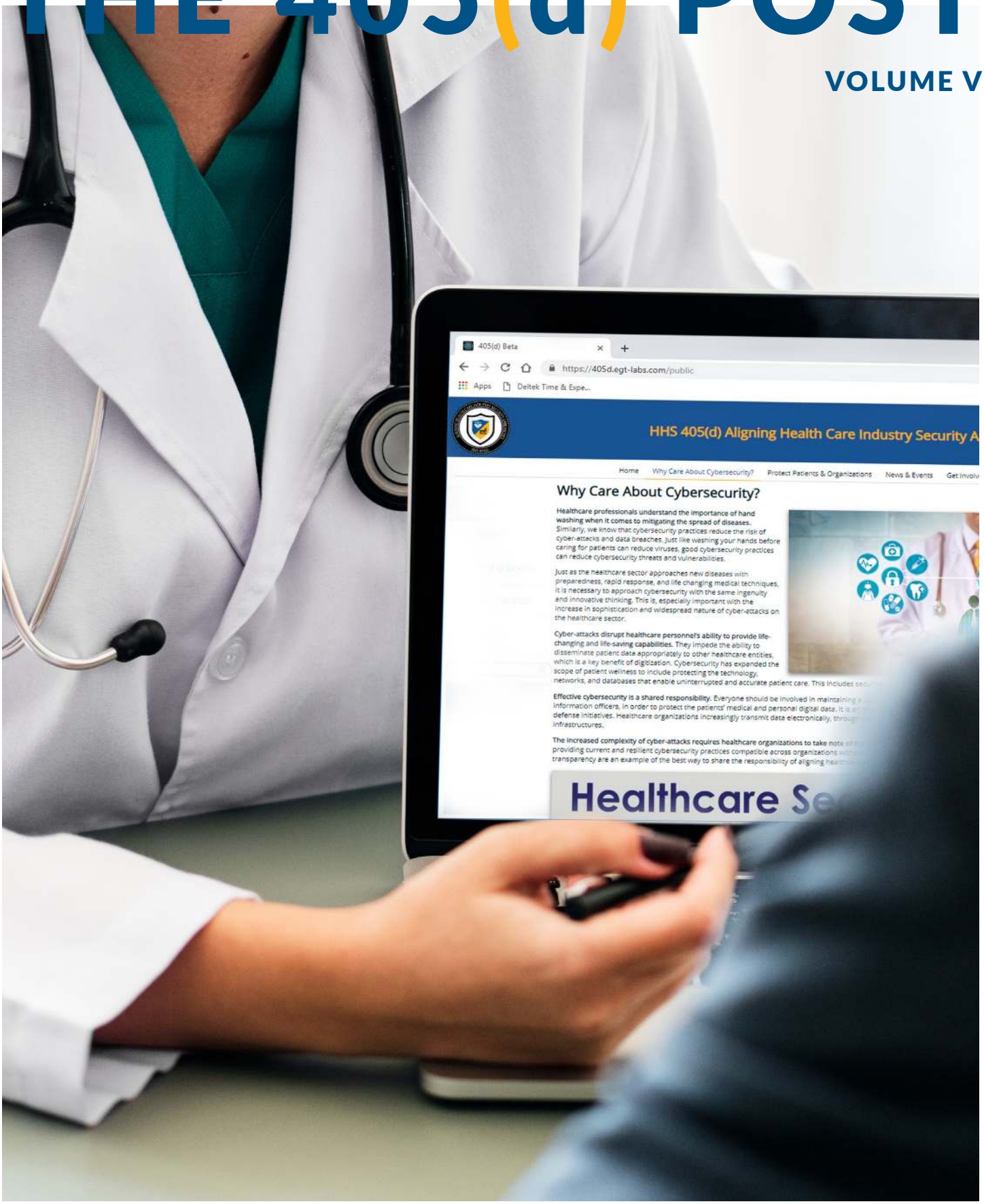
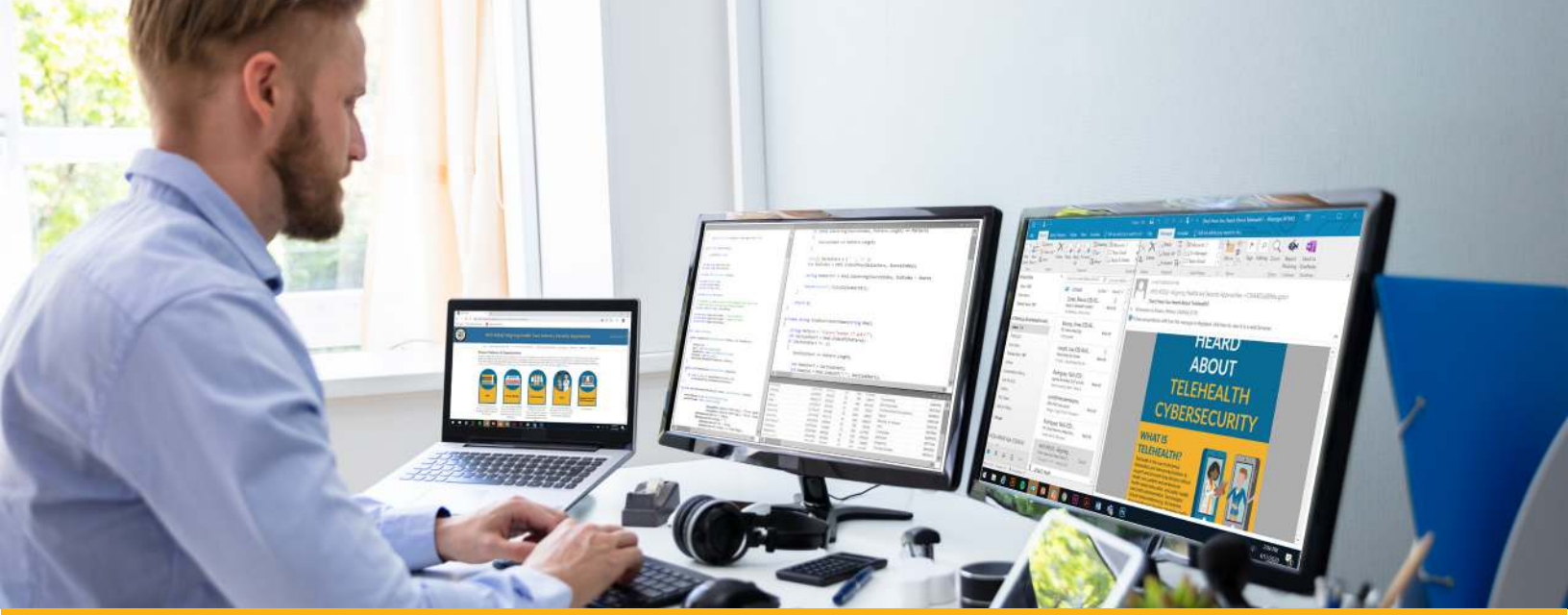
THE 405(d) POST

VOLUME V



HHS 405(d)
Aligning Health Care
Industry Security Approaches



Telework During COVID-19
Good Practices To Protect From Cyberattacks

By Sekar Thanigaimani, 405(d) Task Group Member

As the COVID-19 pandemic spreads around the world, the World Health Organization (WHO) has made the suggestion that organizations introduce more teleworking. Many organizations are considering work from home options to reduce the risk of their staff getting infected. Typically, when employees are working inside the corporate network, the enterprise security team can monitor and protect them. But working from home exposes the employee's devices and through them, the organization's network to various threats.

Attackers are taking advantage of the fact that many employees who are working from home have not applied the same security on their own networks that would be in place in a corporate environment. There have been multiple cases of malicious COVID-19 mobile applications and malicious emails that give attackers potential access to data or the ability to encrypt devices for ransom. Organizations should continue to assess the security controls in the context of telework which can include: implementation of single sign-on, multi-factor authentication, encryption of data, protecting the home Wifi network, VPN to connect to the organization's network, and monitoring and applying security patches regularly. However, there are ways to protect and mitigate risks from cyberattacks using the Health Industry Cybersecurity Practices (HICP) Publication. HICP focuses on five threats and ten best practices that help organizations improve the strength of their security controls.

The two things I like most about the HICP framework is that, it is designed to be used by healthcare organizations of all sizes (small to large enterprises), and the best practices are documented at a granular level which serve as an easy tool for a quick assessment which helps organizations improve their security posture. For example, "Deploy multifactor authentication (MFA) before enabling access to your e-mail system. MFA prevents hackers who have obtained a legitimate user's credentials from accessing your system". I was able to do a quick assessment using HICP and implement the recommended best practices.

ASSET MANAGEMENT	NETWORK MANAGEMENT	E-MAIL PROTECTION SYSTEMS	ENDPOINT PROTECTION SYSTEMS	MEDICAL DEVICE SECURITY
VULNERABILITY MANAGEMENT	INCIDENT RESPONSE	ACCESS MANAGEMENT	DATA PROTECTION & LOSS PREVENTION	CYBERSECURITY POLICIES

HICP calls out ten best practices that an organization can implement to mitigate cybersecurity risks

In the current situation of COVID-19, organizations should pay attention to the following Key Practices immediately and focus on the other HICP Practices as well:

Cybersecurity Policies:

It is important for the organization to publish and spread awareness on teleworking policies and all associated policies and governance with their employees. In addition, performing an assessment with reference to the ten practices published by HICP would help organizations understand the current strength of controls and mitigate the risks accordingly.

Access Management:

Organizations should implement virtual "check-in" and check-out" from the location where the employee is working and connecting to the organization's network through a VPN. Organizations may also enforce two-factor authentication across all assets and for all employees. Security functions should monitor the network traffic that comes from different locations outside of the locations that are registered through virtual check-in.

Asset Management:

Organizations should consider implementation of virtual desktop as part of an overall IT strategy. Sensitive company data including PHI / PII data stored on laptops, desktops, and mobile devices can be lost or stolen very easily. With Virtual Desktop Infrastructures (VDIs), the data is stored in a centralized environment and antivirus and malware software status updates are easier to do and track. In the absence of a VDI

environment, organizations should implement a centralized tool for managing security vulnerabilities to mitigate risks.

Virtual tools:

Use of organization-authorized cloud-based collaboration tools, such as video conferencing, call, chat, white board, emails, word processing software, project management tools and timesheet etc., help organizations mitigate the risks and threats related to vulnerabilities.

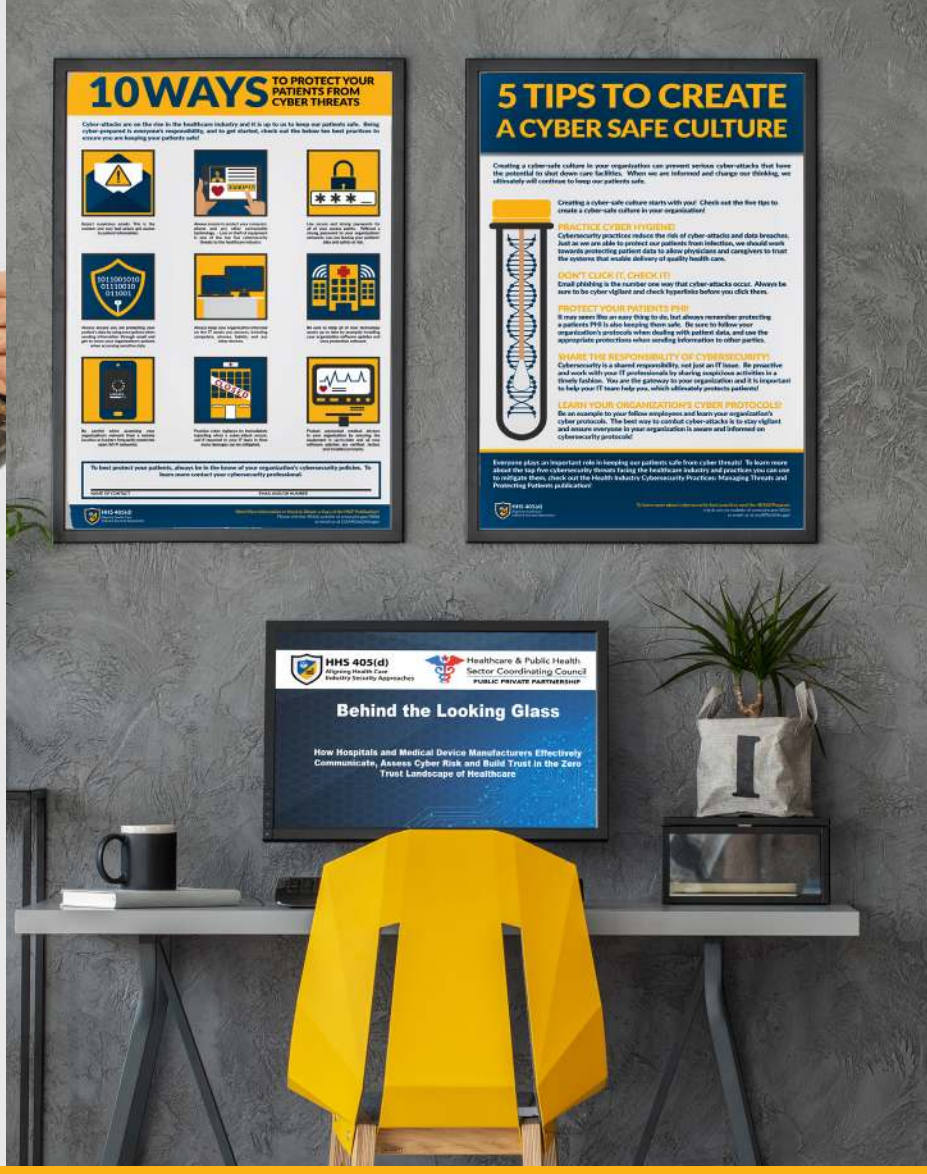
Conclusion

Cybercriminals are seeking to exploit this COVID-19 situation to target organizations and employees. It is important for organizations to perform a comprehensive risk assessment for their employees that work from home or other remote locations and mitigate the risks to protect patient data. To this, the HICP publication is a great place to start. If you have questions you can reach out to the 405(d) Team at cisa405d@hhs.gov

Click Below to Download a Copy of Each Technical Volume

TECHNICAL VOLUME I
PRACTICES FOR SMALL ORGANIZATIONS

TECHNICAL VOLUME II
PRACTICES FOR MEDIUM & LARGE ORGANIZATIONS



405(d) In the Spotlight

In the past year the 405(d) Program has grown its reach and continues to pursue its mission of Aligning Healthcare Industry Security Approaches. The 405(d) program is now able to assist in many of your cybersecurity needs. Whether it's instituting a cybersecurity risk management structure using HICP, or educating your staff on cybersecurity, we are here for you! Check out the list below of the many different ways you can utilize the 405(d) Program and its available resources!

405(d) Awareness Materials

Need cybersecurity awareness posters for your organization? We've got you covered! The 405(d) Program creates cyber awareness products year round in the hopes we can provide you with a rotating assortment of cybersecurity tips and best practices that you can share with your staff. Our uniquely crafted cybersecurity awareness posters and materials are designed with you in mind and can be used as posters, email blasts, or print outs. Check out the examples above!

405(d) Guest Webinars

Does your organization have a standing webinar series that is missing a cybersecurity element? The 405(d) Program will come to you! The 405(d) Program will curate a webinar specifically for your organization's cybersecurity needs and invite other federal partners where appropriate to help educate and inform your workforce on cybersecurity issues.

405(d) Social Media

Looking for ways to stay up to date on the latest 405(d) cybersecurity topics and products? We are now active on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter at @ask405d! Our Social Media accounts highlight new 405(d) awareness products and also provide cybersecurity best practices and tips that you can use in your organization. To stay connected have your organization follow us and re-share our content with your employees!

405(d) Spotlight Webinar

Interested in learning more from industry about cybersecurity? The 405(d) Spotlight Webinar spotlights a new topic and Task Group Member each time and they produce content based on insight on how their organizations have used the HICP publication, real-world scenarios and lessons learned, industry cybersecurity best practices, proven cybersecurity procedures and techniques, and other topics involving cybersecurity in the healthcare industry.

Happening Around Us

COVID-19 Ransomware Attacks on Healthcare Providers Escalating

HEALTH IT SECURITY NEWS

HealthIT Security reports that Hospitals and other healthcare providers are increasingly being targeted with ransomware attacks amid the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Interpol. The news comes as the FBI alerts all sectors to an expected increase in business email compromise schemes tied to the crisis. According to Interpol's data, the ransomware is primarily spreading through emails that frequently claim to contain information or advice about the Coronavirus from a government agency. US Federal agencies have also recently reported a surge in fraud schemes related to COVID-19. Interpol is currently collecting a list of suspicious Internet domains related to the pandemic, which it will analyze in order to work with relevant countries to take action against the threat.[1] To learn more about how to use mitigating practices to mitigate these threats check out The Health Industry Cybersecurity Practices: Managing Threats and Protecting Patients (HICP) Publication.

DHS Urges VPN Cybersecurity Best Practices due to COVID-19

CYBER INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY

Due to the increase in remote work due to COVID-19, The Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency is urging strong Virtual Private Networks (VPN) protections to mitigate heightened cyber-risks for all organizations. VPNs offer secure remote access to internal networks like databases and are used in healthcare to remotely access and electronically share health data. DHS urges ensuring your organization performs the necessary patches to ensure your VPN is up to date. Another mitigation practice DHS suggests is to inform your employees of increased phishing emails.[2] To learn more about how to strengthen your VPN and cybersecurity Posture check out The Health Industry Cybersecurity Practices: Managing Threats and Protecting Patients (HICP) Publication.

Detroit Hospital Network Announces Data Breach

CYBERSCOOP

Cyberscoop reports a Detroit-area health care organization is alerting patients that their information may have been compromised in a recent data breach. Beaumont Health, a network of eight hospitals throughout the Detroit area, said in a letter Friday that "an unauthorized third party" accessed names, birth dates, Social Security numbers and medical conditions about some 112,000 people. Hackers also accessed bank account data and driver's license numbers about some of those affected. The incident involves information about less than 5% of the 2.3 million people that the medical organization has treated in the nearly 12 months since the attack occurred, according to Beaumont. The attack against the hospital network occurred months before U.S. facilities started responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Word of the breach coincides with ongoing concern in the security community about the particular vulnerability of the global medical sector. As health care workers rush to treat patients affected by the novel coronavirus, opportunistic hackers have sought to capitalize on the urgency by targeting hospitals, sometimes demanding extortion fees to back down.[3] To learn more about how to use mitigating practices to mitigate these threats check out The Health Industry Cybersecurity Practices: Managing Threats and Protecting Patients (HICP) Publication.

405(d) Events and Announcements!

405(d) Spotlight Webinar: Healthcare Cybersecurity: Stay One Step Ahead of the Hackers
June 17 at 1:00 pm

Spring Campaign still ongoing!

Additional Resources

Fake Online Coronavirus Map Alert

Access Control for Health Information Systems

Citric Vulnerabilities and APT 41 Whitepaper

Telehealth Remote Communications Guidance

Happening Around Us Sources

1. HEALTH IT SECURITY NEWS
2. CYBER INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY
3. CYBERSCOOP

About The 405(d) Post

This newsletter is for information purposes only and aims to broaden awareness and align healthcare security approaches. The news articles represented in this newsletter are chosen at random to foster awareness and are not in promotion of any news organization. The "A Word from the Task Group" is written by a different 405(d) Task Group Member each issue and does not reflect the views of HHS as a whole. All Task Group Members have been invited to contribute to this newsletter.

Need To Contact Us? Email us at cisa405d@hhs.gov or visit our website at 405d.hhs.gov!