Federal Information Security Educators (FISSEA)

Fall Forum

November 14, 2023 1:00pm - 4:00pm ET

#FISSEA | nist.gov/fissea





Please Note...

This webinar and the engagement tools will be recorded.

An archive will be available on the event website.



Welcome and Opening Remarks



Marian Merritt
Deputy Director of NICE/FISSEA Lead
National Institute of Standards and Technology



Brooke Crisp
IT Cybersecurity Specialist/FISSEA Co-Chair
Social Security Administration



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Opening Keynote

National Cyber Workforce and Education Strategy Overview

Seeyew MoAssistant Director
Office of the National Cyber Director





From Compliance to Impact: Tracing the Transformation of an Organizational Security Awareness Program

Julie Haney
Computer Scientist

National Institute of Standards and Technology





From Compliance to Impact: Tracing the Transformation of an Organizational Security Awareness Program



¹National Institute of Standards and Technology, ²University of Maryland, College Park November 2023



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Program Failures









Measuring Effectiveness



versus





Research Goals



- Gain insight into how a security awareness team goes about developing, executing, and transforming their security awareness program
- Provide lessons learned useful to other programs



Case Study of "Agency Q" Security Awareness Program

- Medium-sized government agency
- Security awareness team: government lead +
 2 contractors
- Team responsible for:
 - Implementing and tracking mandatory, annual awareness training
 - Planning and executing initiatives to increase employee awareness
 - Managing role-based training





What We Did



- Interviewed:
 - Security awareness team
 - CISO and front-line supervisor
 - Employees



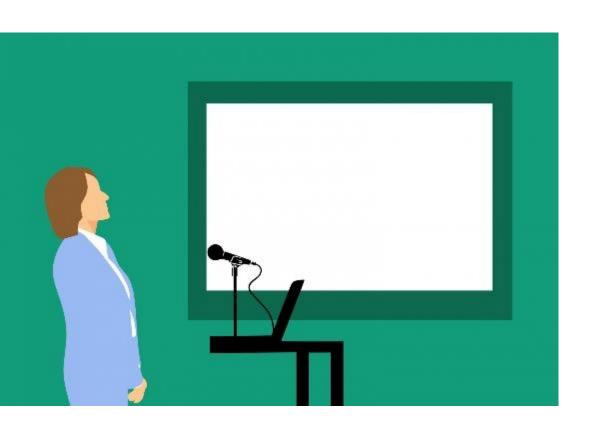
Observed in-person events over the course of a year



 Analyzed historical reports, awareness materials, and results of post-event feedback surveys



Security Awareness Initiatives



- Drop-in lunchtime events
- Security days
- Security officer forums
- Campaigns
- Phishing simulation exercises



Challenges



- Lack of buy-in from some employees and leaders
- Compliance mentality
- Lack of resources



Challenges



People do it because they have to.
You have the online training where
it's like "click, click, click, done"...
rather than paying attention to the
words they're seeing on the screen
... Just because you're compliant
doesn't mean that it's an effective
program.

program lead

- Lack of buy-in from some employees and leaders
- Compliance mentality
- Lack of resources





Making Security Relatable

- Include topical information
 - Season of year
 - Recent security needs and threats
 - Workforce-suggested topics
- Address multiple contexts
 - Work-home connection
 - Physical and personnel security





Making Security Relatable

- Include topical information
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 - Physical and personnel security

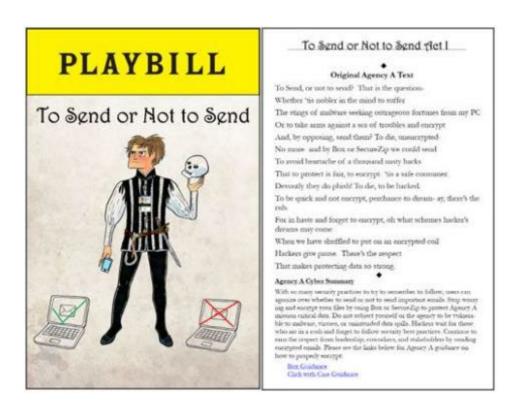


We want to secure the person, and we want everyone to think about all aspects in which they could secure themselves.

Chief Information Security Officer



Employing Engaging Communication Techniques



- Using a variety of communication methods throughout the year
- Implementing creative, memorable, and entertaining initiatives
- Trying new things even though not everything works



Providing Practical Recommendations

- Provide actionable steps to take
- Achievable given employee skills
- Described in understandable terms
- Accompanied by points of contact and resources for more information



Providing Practical Recommendations



[It's beneficial] having the information presented in a manner where it's not intimidating, ... in a way you can embrace it and take away information ... The more we know about it and the more we know people that we can reach out to that can help us if we have a question about it, I think that can make you feel more empowered and more comfortable in doing it the right way and protecting yourself as well.

employee





Event Attendance



I think we're starting to make a difference. I can see that by the numbers of people who come to our events and look forward to it.

program lead

- Increase in number of event attendees
- Who attends how to reach groups that don't typically attend



Employee Feedback

- Post-event surveys
 - Rating scales
 - Written feedback and suggestions
- Focus groups
- Personal feedback





Employee Feedback



- Post-event surveys
 - Rating scales
 - Written feedback and suggestions
- Focus groups
- Personal feedback

You can get messages from the agency, and I go like, 'Is this real?' And I send it to the cybersecurity team to say, 'Am I supposed to be answering this?' So, basically, as a result of my training here, I am very, very suspicious of everything.

employee



Evidence of Leadership Support

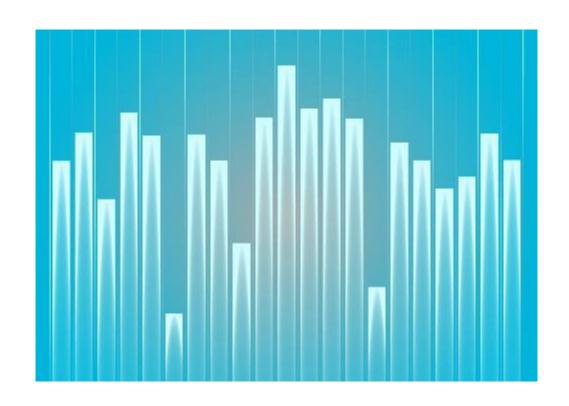


If we can get the leadership to look forward to what we're doing and show some interest rather than just being another line on a report, I think that's very good. I think we're making some progress ... Now I've got the CIO and the deputy CIO and the CISO and the deputy CISO sitting in the crowd and watching the whole [event] rather than just showing up to give their opening remarks and then leaving.

program lead



User-Generated Incidents & Reporting



- Trends in employeeinvolved security incidents and reporting
- Contextualizing the trends
- Holistic approach to measuring effectiveness



User-Generated Incidents & Reporting



We're trying to...be able to tie in together the people who take their training to the people who get caught with phishing exercises, the people who are really getting caught with phishing exercises with people who are losing their badges to people who send out information they shouldn't to see what's the correlation here. Are these people just too busy? Are they not paying attention? Is there a training problem?

program lead

- Trends in employeeinvolved security incidents and reporting
- Contextualizing the trends
- Holistic approach to measuring effectiveness





The Big Picture



- Emphasize impact, not compliance!
- Obtain leadership buy-in
- Security awareness should not be "one and done"
- Leverage diverse expertise



Approaches

- Use a variety of engaging communication channels and methods
- Information should be relatable, actionable, and tailored
- Reward positive behaviors





Measuring Effectiveness



- Measure program effectiveness by synthesizing data from multiple sources
 - Quantitative
 - Qualitative
- Provide evidence to leadership



THANK YOU!

human-cybersec@nist.gov https://csrc.nist.gov/projects/human-centered-cybersecurity





Q&A

Are There Any Questions?



Federal Information Security Educators (FISSEA) Fall Forum

BREAK

The Forum will resume at 2:30pm ET

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Welcome Back!

Marian Merritt

Deputy Director of NICE/FISSEA Lead National Institute of Standards and Technology





Fireside Chat



Kristy Daphnis
Federal Workforce Branch Chief
Office of Management and Budget



Susan Hansche
CISA/CSD Training and Development
Department of Homeland Security



Cybersecurity Awareness Month and More

Lisa PlaggemierExecutive Director
National Cybersecurity Alliance







Cybersecurity Awareness Month and More

Programs

Cybersecurity Awareness Month Overview

- 20th Cybersecurity Awareness Month
- Focus on four behaviors: phishing, MFA, software updates and passwords
- Launch of Secure Our World campaign
- "Oh Behave" Report on Cybersecurity Attitudes and Behaviors
- Kubikle Web Series







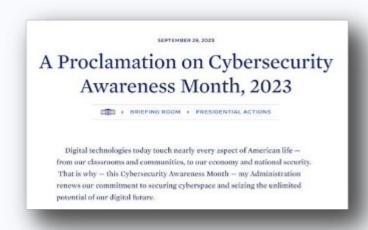
Results

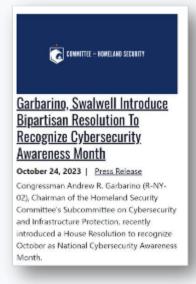


NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY ALLIANCE

- 4,080 Champions from 93 countries and all 50 states.
 Total est. reach approximately 102,277,394 individuals
- 765 people tuned into the Oct 4 campaign kick-off event
- 43,274 individuals posted about the campaign in 136,646 posts across social media platforms

Resulted in 651,263 total engagements and **1.8b** potential impressions





Results

US Media Reach 7.2B

Morningstar

Yahoo Finance

Marketwatch

60 Minutes

Fox

CBS

NBC

ABC

NPR

MSN

CNN

Time

New York Times

Economist

Wall Street Journal

Fortune

USAToday

Los Angeles Times

Washington Post

Cybersecurity Awareness Month

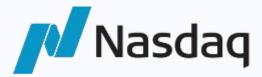
Speaking Engagements

- 9,500 individuals attended an NCA session or game show
- 135 companies reached























Programs

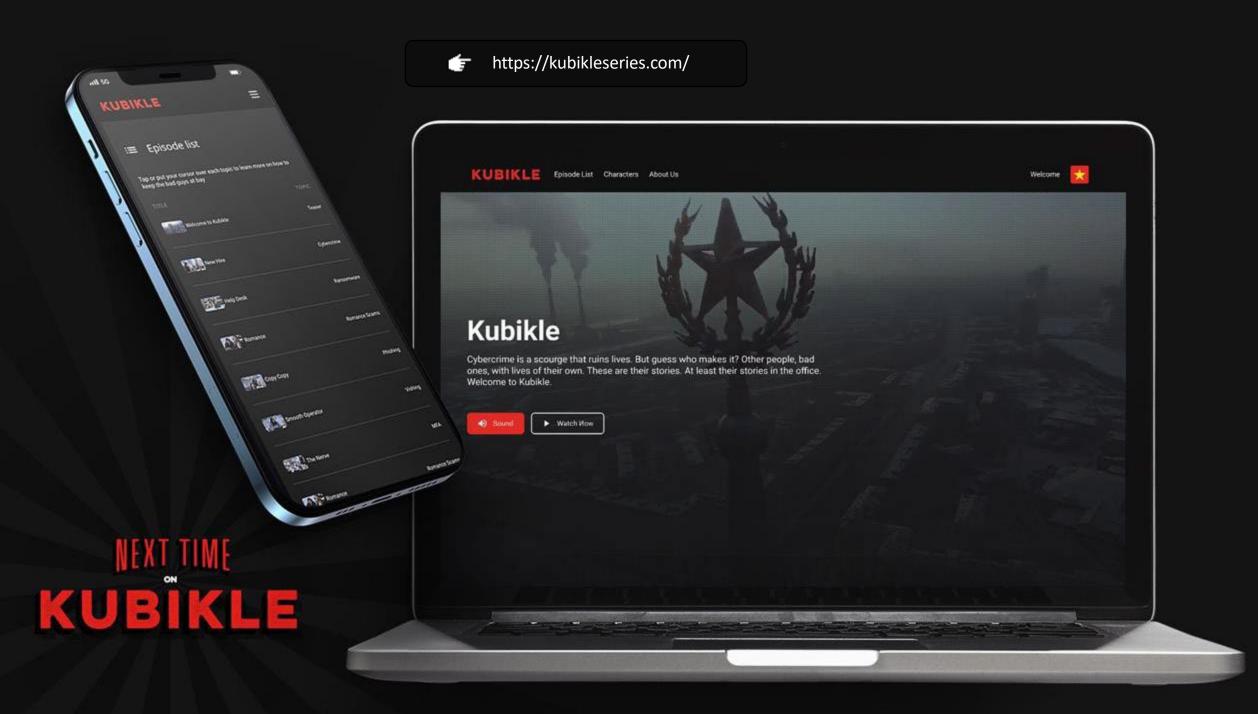
Oh Behave 2023



- Launched Oct 3, 2023
- 1,534 downloads to date
 - 42% increase compared to same period in 2022
- Coverage:
 - o Fortune (UVM: 19M)
 - o Beta News (UVM: 1M)
 - Dark Reading (UVM: 405K)
 - CyberWire (UVM: 32K)



Staying Safe Online is Easier Than You Think!



Online Holiday Shopping Campaign

- Social media campaign
- Toolkit tips sheets, graphics, holiday cards
- Webinar with Trend Micro
- Media pitching
 - interview with BBC on Nov 24



Programs



Convene: Clearwater Beach Florida 2024 Sheraton Sand Key January 17-18

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY ALLIANCE

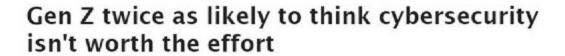
Oh, Behave!

The Annual Cybersecurity Attitudes and Behaviors Report 2023



Security Behaviors

- Password habits: password creation, password management, etc.
- O Using Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)
- Installing the latest updates
- Checking for signs of phishing
- **Backing up data**





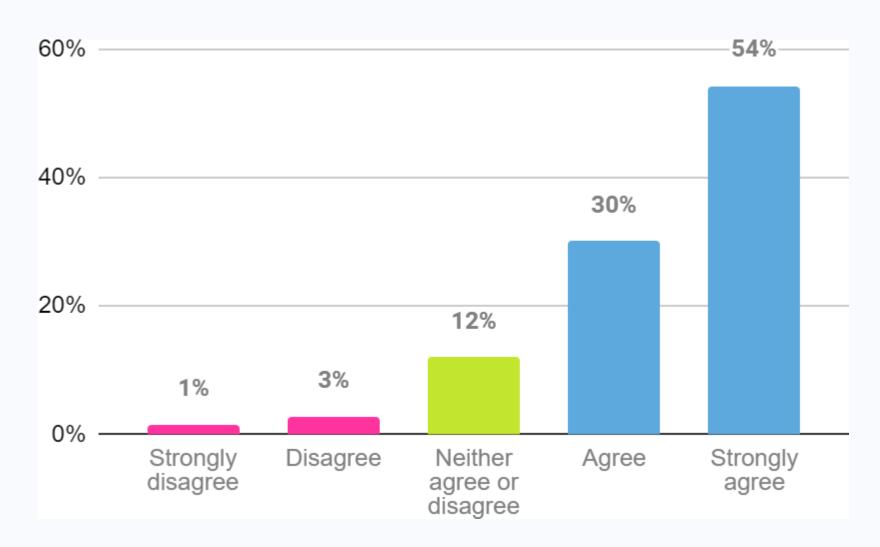
Prioritizing Cybersecurity

Question:

How do you feel about cyber security?

Statement:

"I feel that staying secure online is <u>a priority</u>"



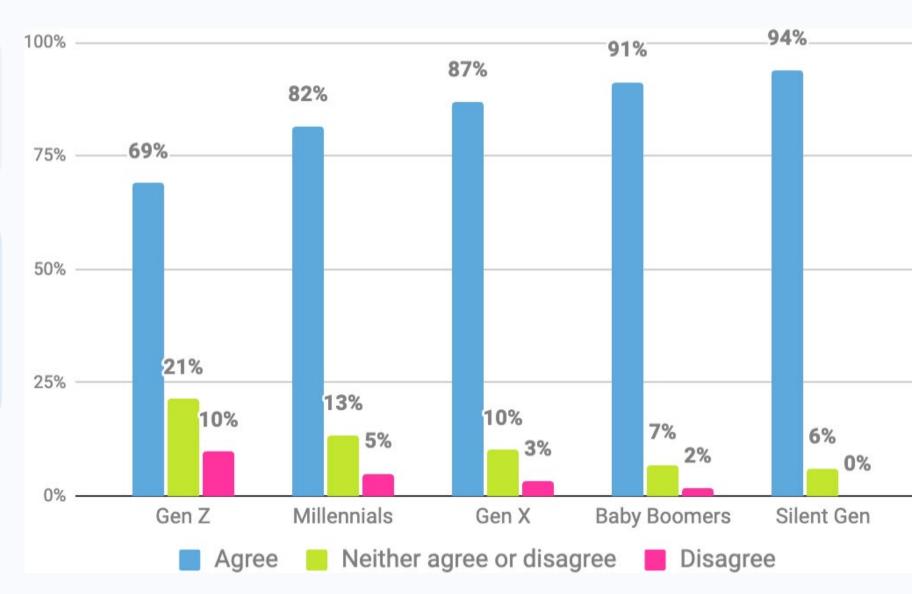
Security Behaviors

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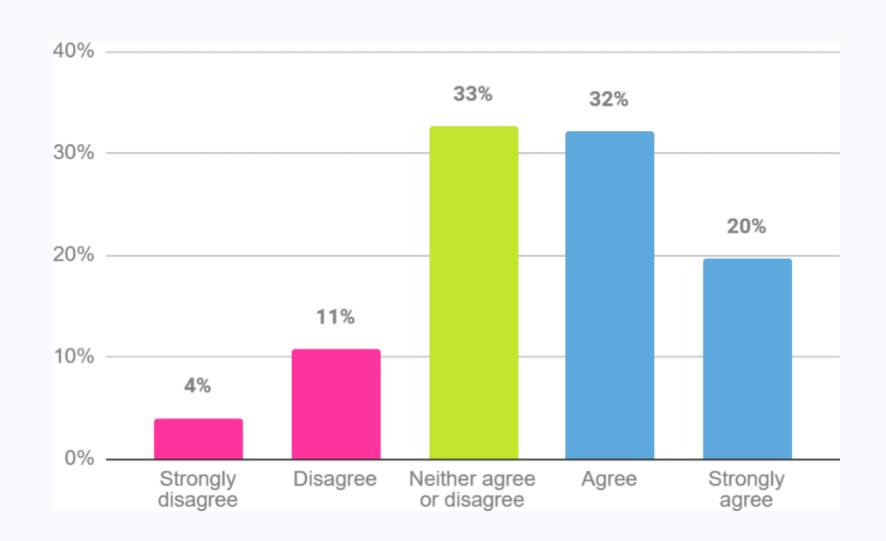
Feelings

Question:

How do you feel about cyber security?

Statement:

"Staying secure online is under my control."







Motivation







Opportunity



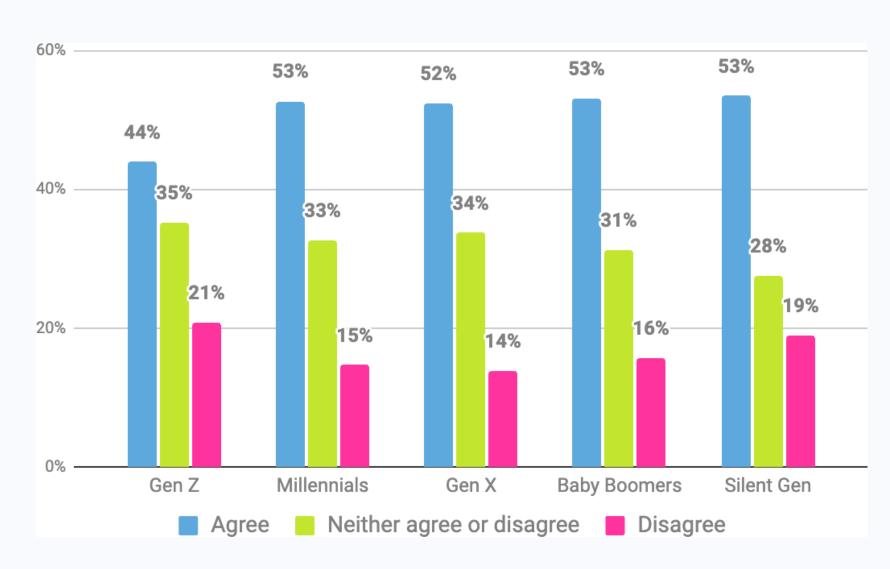
Feelings

Question:

How do you feel about cyber security?

Statement:

"Staying secure online is <u>under my control</u>."







Huh?

43%

of Gen Zs reported having lost data or money due to phishing

39%

of Gen Zs reported family members rely on them for online security

Everyone's afraid of the internet

(and no one's sure what to do about it)



Parents of Gen Z are especially worried when it comes to their children's safety online

As parents of the first generation to grow up online, there's genuine concern that Gen Z's online activity could result in data breaches or identity theft. Parents agree: protecting their children's data is a top priority.



Most Gen Zers are confident they know best how to stay safe, though only 1 in 3 parents agree

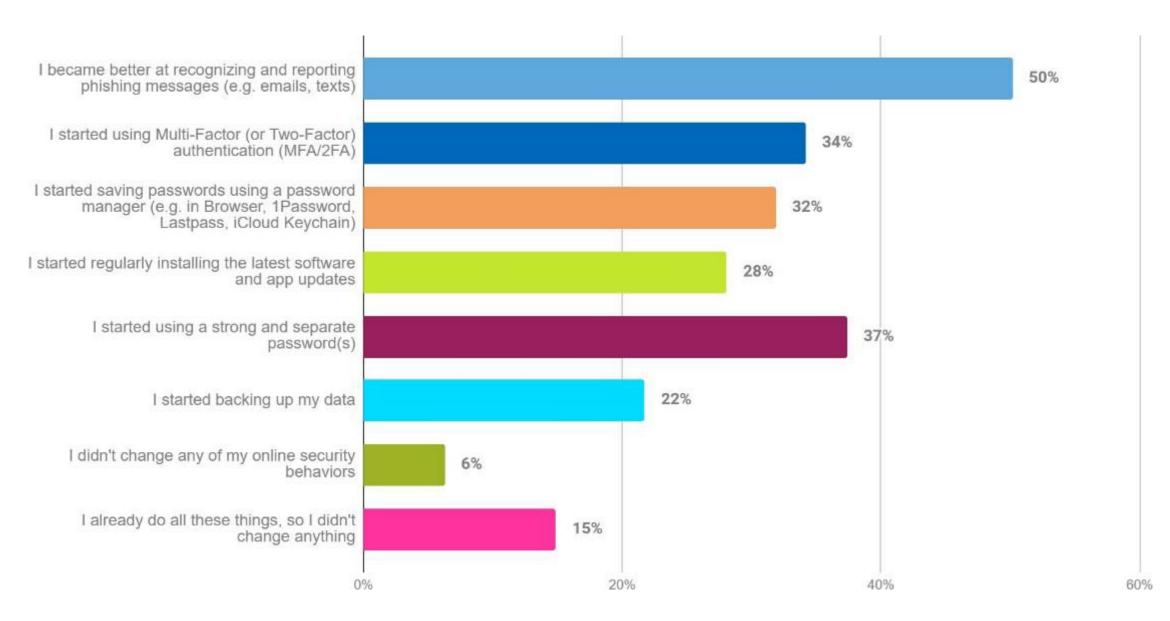


Three in four parents feel they need better tools and education to keep kids safe online

Malwarebytes •



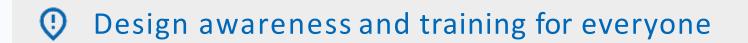
Security Behavior

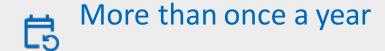


ONLY 6%
TOOK NO ACTION



Improving Training Effectiveness







Get people's attention

O Don't insult, judge or belittle

"The internet needs more helpers—people who will listen to others in need, answer simple tech questions without judgment...teaching every user along the way."

- Oren Arar, VP of Consumer Privacy, Malwarebytes



perseverance

```
noun [∪] • approving

US ◀》 /ˌpɜ:.sə'vɪr.əns/ UK ◀》 /ˌpɜ:.sɪ'vɪə.rəns/
```

Continued effort to do or achieve something, even when this is difficult or takes a long time

Stay safe online.



Website

StaySafeOnline.org

Twitter

@staysafeonline

Facebook

/staysafeonline

LinkedIn

/national-cyber-security-alliance

Email

info@staysafeonline.org

Q&A

Are There Any Questions?



An Ounce of Prevention Is Worth a Pound of Cure: How to Assess the Impact of Your Awareness Campaigns

Nadine Michaelides
Founder
Anima People







Cyber Psychologist Founder of Anima People



AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE- HOW TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF YOUR AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS



SECURITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS



Effective user security awareness campaigns can greatly enhance the information assurance posture of an organization

User awareness represents a significant challenge in the security domain, with the human factor ultimately being the element that is exploited in a variety of attack scenarios.

Psychological theories of education, learning, environmental and healthcare behavioural change can be used to make information security awareness methods more effective (Khan et al. 2011).



ANIMA

Steen, Norris, Atha & Joinson (2020)

- Analysed 17 governmentsponsored cybersecurity campaign materials
- Results were that security campaigns are often focused on education and increasing awareness, under the assumption that as long as citizens are aware of the risk, and are provided with information on how to improve their security behaviour, behaviour will change





66

There is no evidence that merely increasing awareness leads to behavioural change.



ONE SIZE FITS ALL?!...

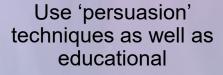


- Upgrade the awareness campaigns so they focus on specific behaviours and threats
- Wherever possible try to avoid targeting the general public and target specific groups of users e.g. cyberbullying
- Avoid a 'one size fits all' approach
- Provide 'coping skills' in how to manage in certain situations



PERSUASION...





Use techniques such as coercion and modelling, incentivization and enablement

Include cultural factors
to encourage intrinsic
motivation to security
tapping into cognitive,
affective or
motivational
characteristics

Make it personal and collective and relevant to the individual as well as the group.

PERCEPTIONS OF RISK...

ANIMA

Be aware and counter-in the varying perceptions of risk culturally between nations and states, or other groups of people There are four distinctive categories that distinguish country cultures; power distance, collectivism vs. individualism, femininity vs. masculinity and uncertainty avoidance

FEAR...

- Refrain from using messages that are fear-provoking
- Not conducive to behaviour change
- Interventions based on theoretical knowledge such as social learning theory or the theory of self-efficacy, which takes into account cultural beliefs and attitudes, are more likely to succeed...
- especially when we take into account varying cultures.



REGULATORY FOCUS THEORY

Guided by a need for nurturance

And a need to align with the ideal self

Messages should be 'promotion and prevention' focused

And NOT instill fear...



SIMPLICITY....



44

Campaigns should use simple consistent rules of behaviour that people can follow, facilitating perceived control and better acceptance of the suggested behaviour.



CONTEXT...

44

Avoid monotonous advice from 'security experts' such as 'change passwords' which doesn't take into account the responsibility and workload issues that may be present, acting as barriers to good cyber hygiene.





CONTACT...



Include contact details which enable users to call a helpline or get help where possible



Table 1. Information security awareness methods effectiveness.

S/No.	Tool and technique	Component of knowledge	Component of attitude change	Component of subjective norms	Component of Intention	Change in behavior	Overall effectiveness
1	Education presentation	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	4
2	Email messaging	✓	✓	×	✓	×	3
3	Group discussion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5
4	Newsletters	✓	✓	×	*	×	2
5	Video games	×	✓	×	✓	×	2
6	CBT	✓	✓	×	*	×	2
7	Posters	✓	✓	×	×	×	2



FEEDBACK

WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW?



1

Whether the information has been received and by what means e.g. newsletter, social media, and this is where social media engagement metrics can be very useful, and...



Whether that information changes the perceptions, opinions and attitudes of those individuals, and



Whether those psychological processes translate to behaviour change, both for individuals and for communities.



Understanding how people perceive risks is critical to creating effective awareness campaigns

EXAMPLES OF USEFUL METRICS...











85%

Employees hate their job

52%

Employees feel they get a positive experience

48%

Say the biggest roadblock is 'not enough time'

??%

Time needed to adopt good hygiene



UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE'S MOTIVATION TOWARDS SECURITY.

Some people may not intentionally be malicious but still offer a threat to security. Despite the best training in the world, people must understand security's importance.



People can be your best asset and your biggest threat to security.

UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE'S MOTIVATION TOWARDS SECURITY.

Staff motivation towards security can change due to reasons that often go unrecognized or not considered important. Examples include:

A promised pay review missed or ignored.

A change of manager.

Personal circumstances changing (divorce, bereavement, unexpected bill).



HOW...?





Investigate what's happenning behind the scenes



Implement the appropriate strategy



Get feedback direct from users



Create cyberengaged communities





HOW TO MEASURE BEHAVIOR CHANGE?

Where possible campaigns could be distributed in small samples, controlling exposure to, and interaction with the materials to measure the direct effects of these campaigns on security behavior

- a combination of direct behavioral measures (e.g. number of people signing up for a training, or the percentage of people reporting a potential phishing email),
- intentions (e.g. questions on how an individual would act, if they find themselves in a potentially harmful situation),
- attitudes (e.g. attitudes towards the likelihood and severity of cyber threats such as ransomware) and
- awareness (e.g. reach of the campaign, whether people remember the message of the campaign materials) is needed.



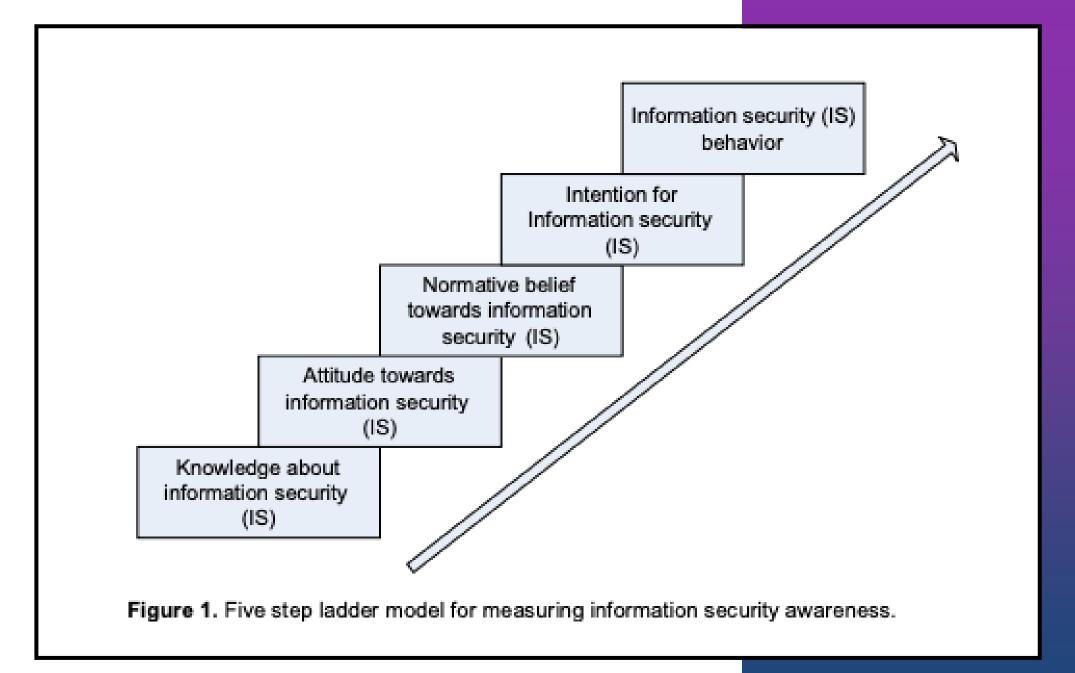




Table 2. Information security awareness metrics.

Metrics	Unit
Security incident database	Incidents/6 months
Help desk calls	Calls/month
Phishing e-mails	E-mail/month
Number of accesses to intranet pages	Hits/month
Number of accesses to unauthorized pages	Attempts/month
Survey questionnaires based on knowledge	Average score of all employees



EXAMPLE QUESTIONS



The following are statements are designed to determine attitudes towards negative cyber security behaviors (measured on a scale of perceived seriousness)

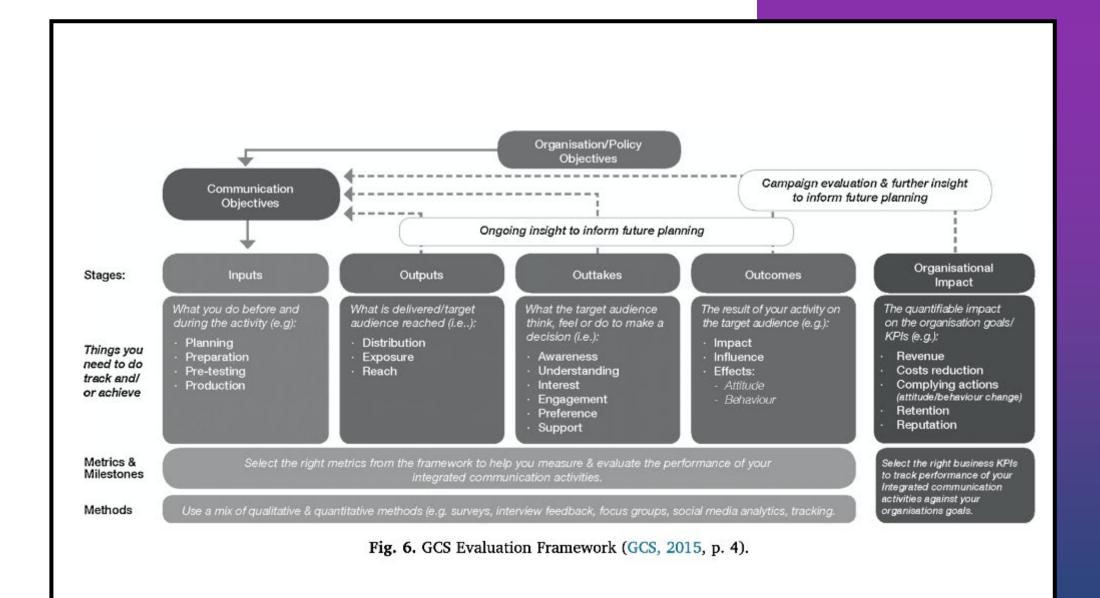
- 1. unacceptable use of email
- 2. inappropriate use of computer resources
- 3. unauthorized access to information systems
- 4. unacceptable use of information system passwords
- 5. unacceptable use of information systems

The study will also measure employee attitudes towards cyber security expectations from employers using the following statements to be answered according to level of agreement:

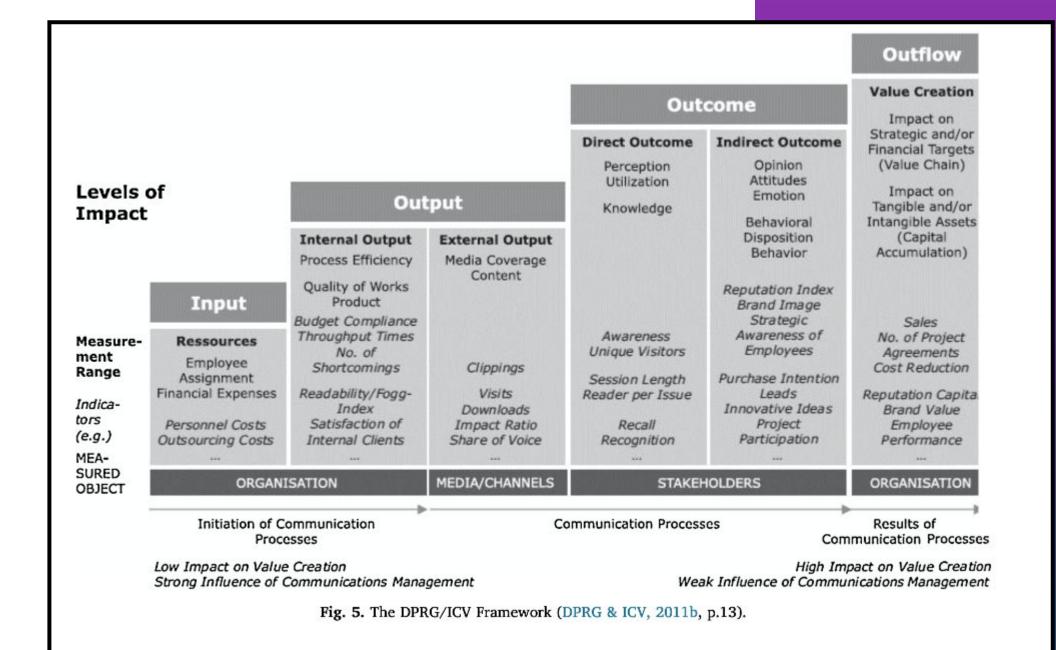
My employer's expectations for cyber security are reasonable. My employer expects me to spend a reasonable amount of time on cyber security.

My employer's expectation of my knowledge of cyber security is reasonable. My employer's expectation for my level of responsibility for cyber security is reasonable. My employer expects a reasonable level of my attention for cyber security.











Situation
Social media
accounts of
users are at a
higher risk of
being hacked
and it is
thought that if
we raise
awareness of
the issue then
users will take
more steps to
secure their
accounts.

Inputs	→	Activities			
Financial investment Staff Volunteers Materials Equipment Technology Partners		What we do Social media paid advertising Digital events and workshops Social media organic content Blogs Work with media Develop and share tools Share best	Reach General public – 13 to 30 y/o, both men and women Emphasis on the 13-20 y/o public		
	↑ ↓				

•	Outcomes						
	Short	Medium	Long term				
	LEARNING Knowledge Awareness Attitudes Skills Opinions Aspirations Motivations	ACTION Behaviour Practice Decision- making Policies Social Action	CONDITIONS Social Economic Civic Environmental				
	Τ Ψ						

Assumptions:

- 13-30 year olds use social media
- they are able to learn new skills through digital learning
- that they care about cybersecurity
- that they are use the channels included in the comms plan

External factors

- access to user data such as number of social media hacking incidents
- participation from Member States
- partnership/involvement of organisations

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN:

A Psychological Perspective

Involving and inspiring people beyond awareness

An effective cybersecurity awareness campaign can awaken fresh new habits that are conducive to protecting people and organizations. However, most campaigns focus solely on providing information rather than encouraging people to get involved or inspiring them to embrace change.

Behavior change stems from people's perceptions and attitudes, so individuals must be motivated to take action. Rather than assume people are interested in cybersecurity and motivated to improve security practices, campaigns should spawn from genuine reality, promoting long-term change.

Enter the Cybersecurity
Awareness Campaign
Process Model - developed
to help organizations
produce more effective
campaigns by following
step-by-step guidelines.



Key attributes of effective cybersecurity awareness campaigns

- · Disseminating knowledge Campaigns should help people become aware of cybersecurity by providing information and guidance.
- · Understanding motivation Campaigns need to be underpinned by psychological factors that motivate people to act in a more security-conscious way.
- · Engaging people in behaviour Campaigns should encourage people to engage in behaviour change.

- · Evaluating behaviour change Behaviour change resulting from the campaign should be evaluated for further development of policies and procedures.
- · Planning for the future By discovering exactly what motivates people to change their behaviour, future campaigns can be developed based on these factors.





Cybersecurity Awareness Campaign Process Model



Impact Evaluation Awareness



Proximal Impact I: Engagement

Proximal Impact II: Priming Steps



Distal Impact: Trialing Behaviour

Outcome Evaluation

Process for introducing a cybersecurity culture

Unaware

Poorly trained or no guidance received for proper cybersecurity behaviours.

This leads to a lack of awareness of cybersecurity. Organisations should design and develop effective cybersecurity awareness training and guidance for providing information and knowledge.

Informed

Trained but there is an obstacle to motivation (e.g. lack of commitment and trust in organisation)

To progress, organisations should identify obstacles to motivation (e.g. commitment and trust in the organisation) and engage in discourse and collaboratively find a solution.

Motivated

Good intention and motivation exists but there is an obstacle to action (e.g. cybersecurity expectations are too unreasonable and take too much time)

At this stage, organisations need to identify obstacles to action (e.g. unreasonable cybersecurity expectations) and apply the appropriate intervention.

Active

Short-term behaviours in action - initially cyberhygienic but over time they regress to their previous state (e.g. training is forgotten and security is not a priority)

To progress, there should be regular reviews of individual training, rather than simply increasing training in general across the organisation.

Cyber Hygienic

While they have developed good cyber hygiene and long-term cybersecurity habits, they fail to educate and influence peers to adopt cyber hygiene (e.g. a tendency to work in silos, a lack of team spirit)

To move on to the final stage, organisations should identify any issues among colleagues and encourage team working through project-based work and social engagement.

Cyber Ambassadors

Initiators of culture change to create societal norms of cybersecurity.

Once organisations reach this final stage, people will become initiators of culture change and create societal norms, resulting in a conducive cyber culture.

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CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN MATRIX



This matrix details the sequence of steps from obtaining campaign information to changing behaviour, and explains the objectives of each step and how to evaluate its success.

Steps	Impact Evaluation Awareness	Proximal Impact I: Engagement	Proximal Impact II: Priming Steps	Distal Impact: Trialing Behaviour	Outcome Evaluation
Description	Seen the campaign and perception of the campaign	Showing interest in the campaign or message by taking an action	Priming steps of behavioural change	Initial trialing behaviour and antecedents of behaviours	Desired behavioural change
Objectives	Disseminating information and knowledge Increasing psychological factors motivating participants to perform security behaviour Self-efficacy Perceived severity/ vulnerability Response costs/efficacy	 Turning motivation into cybersecurity engagement Encouraging people to pay attention to cybersecurity threats and issues 	 Enhancing knowledge of cybersecurity Increasing attitudes and intentions for cybersecurity behaviour Building a cybersecurity culture 	Encouraging people to actively seek out more cybersecurity information	 Assessing actual cybersecurity behaviour Evaluating behavioural change for future planning
Evaluation Indicators	Emotional reaction to the campaign Pre- and post-campaign questionnaires on cybersecurity awareness and practices Campaign effectiveness Hits to the campaign Calls to the information line Campaign feedback Measurement of increase in psychological factors	 Digital engagement Content analysis - cybersecurity related words Information seeking behaviour Campaign website visits Corporate security police visits Security blog visits on the intranet Email views - Cybersecurity news and announcements 	 Knowledge (Assessment/ Quiz) Measurement of increase in psychological factors of priming steps Attitudes/ Intentions towards cybersecurity behaviours Normative beliefs - Security culture 	 Awareness/ Security days (attendees' reactions to attend noncompulsory security events) Additional inquiries for cybersecurity related questions Symptom recall/ recognition (reporting symptoms that may have been infected by malicious activity) 	 Simulation of phishing attempts Audit/ Risk department reports Security incidents Personal activities when using corporate network Social discourse (Conversation with colleagues about cybersecurity)



THANK YOU

Q&A

Are There Any Questions?



Closing Remarks

Marian Merritt

Deputy Director of NICE/FISSEA Lead National Institute of Standards and Technology





Get Involved



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<u>https://www.nist.gov/itl/applied-cybersecurity/fissea/meet-fissea-planning-committee</u>



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Email fissea@list.nist.gov



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SAVE THE DATE

Federal Information Security Educators (FISSEA) Winter Forum

February 14, 2024

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THANK YOU

We look forward to receiving your feedback via the post-event survey!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2023FISSEAFallForum

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