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Cyber Optimists.

Cyber Optimist Top Eight

Software and Network Security

- [ ] Invest in cybersecurity software, hardware, effective cyber policy development, and security controls.
- [ ] Conduct independent audits.
- [ ] Keep software patched and up-to-date.
- [ ] Employ email and web protection tools.
- [ ] Encrypt data.
- [ ] Implement a centrally managed anti-virus solution.

Training and Awareness

- [ ] Provide regular cybersecurity awareness training for all employees, tailored to real life situations.
- [ ] Provide specialized training for cybersecurity staff.
- [ ] Share challenges and how they were overcome with your network.
- [ ] Help others take steps to secure their systems.

Incident Response and Planning

- [ ] Develop a formal, documented Incident Response Plan with clear guidelines, roles, and responsibilities.

Data Backup and Cloud Security

- [ ] Automate back-ups where possible or maintain regularly.
- [ ] Copy your data to a separate, encrypted service, or a device that you can disconnect, store offline, or isolate.
- [ ] Test often.
- [ ] Refer to cloud security guidelines.
- [ ] Select providers that follow and regulations.
- [ ] Use access management, intrusion detection, 24/7 monitoring.

Vendor and External Party Management

- [ ] Ensure vendors with access to data and systems are actively managed and meet agreed levels of security. Agreements should regulate how vendors meet security requirements.

Device Security

- [ ] Implement mobile device management to secure data on laptops, tablets and smartphones. Employ firewalls.
- [ ] Use remote access tools and ensure they are up-to-date.

Physical Security

- [ ] Wherever important information resides, physical controls should be employed.
- [ ] Securely store company laptops or phones.
- [ ] Enable auto lock functions.

Passwords and Authentication

- [ ] Use “passphrases” instead of passwords.
- [ ] Do not reuse passwords, do not share.
- [ ] Enable MFA.
- [ ] Use a Password Manager.

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