SHARING CYBER INCIDENT DATA

SHOULD MY BUSINESS SHARE CYBER INCIDENT DATA?

What are Information Sharing and Analysis Centers?

As a business owner, you should prepare for when a cyber incident will occur. Your business is not immune from an event, and successful resilient businesses have a plan in place to respond effectively. One tool to respond is to share what happened with an ISAC/ISAO.

Information Sharing and Analysis Centers (ISACs) are a type of Information Sharing and Analysis Organization (ISAO) - which are communities of interest whose members voluntarily share cybersecurity information with each other. A good analogy for an ISAO is the neighborhood watch model. In a neighborhood watch, communities build trust, and share information and best practices with each other to increase their individual and collective security. All neighborhood watches share a foundational idea that bringing communities together promotes an increased quality of life and reduces crime.

An ISAO serves the same purpose, connecting your business to a larger community, which may be in the same industry, or region that proactively share information on cyber threats and incidents, as well as best practices. Through coming together, ISAOs help build trust relationships among their membership; enhance understanding of cyber threats and ways to address vulnerabilities in your organization that could be affected; and help you understand how to respond to a cyber incident at your organization. The overall affect shares a foundational idea as a neighborhood watch – that through these community efforts the quality of each ISAO member's condition improves, and cybercrimes can be prevented.

The National Cybersecurity Society is an ISAO for small business and is connected to other ISAOs in industries and regions across the United States. To learn more about the benefits of an ISAO, see: https://www.isao.org/about/.