Volume 5, Issue 1
January 2023

FB-ISAO Current Threat Level

FB-ISAO Physical Threat Level: Guarded

FB-ISAO has assessed the general Physical Threat Level for US Faith-Based Organizations as **"SEVERE."** As per FB-ISAO's definitions of the Physical Threat Levels, **"SEVERE"** means that an event is highly likely.

Please note that the Pandemic Threat Level has been lowered to Guarded.

FB-ISAO Cyber Threat Level: Guarded

FB-ISAO has assessed the general Cyber Threat Level for US Faith-Based Organizations as **"GUARDED."** As per FB-ISAO's definitions of the Cyber Threat Levels, **"GUARDED"** means FB-ISAO is unaware of any specific events, but a general risk of incidents exists.

Stories

FB-ISAO Newsletter

Strong Passwords – A Great New Year Resolution

Password managers are an invaluable tool for protecting data. They generate and store long, unique passwords. That's important, because using weak passwords, or reusing passwords across multiple accounts, makes one more susceptible to identity theft and other crimes. Nonetheless, many ask, "*are password managers safe?*" In fact, on 22 December 2022, popular password manager LastPass shared a Notice of Recent Security Incident regarding unauthorized access of its data. As the disclosure highlights, password managers are not void of risk. However, it is widely heralded that the benefits far outweigh those risks. To help answer the "*are they safe*" question, check out the timeless blog post by Troy Hunt – ***Password managers don't have to be perfect, they just have to be better than not having one***..

Did you know:

- It can take as little as 30 seconds to crack a randomly generated 7-character password (like a password manager would create) that contains upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols?
- Add one more character and it still takes less than 40 minutes to crack an 8-character password.
- But when you increase that to 12 characters, the time to crack increases to 3,000 years. Even if you omit the symbols, a 12-character password with only upper and lowercase letters and numbers still takes 200 years to crack. Is your data worth the extra 5 characters for a password that couldn't be cracked within your great-great-great-great grandchildren's lifetime?

Some other password tips include:

- Create passphrases that are more easily remembered and more difficult to crack. Passphrases of random words offer a fun alternative for creating longer stronger protection for your accounts.
- Longer is stronger. If a website or service does not allow passwords beyond 20 characters or so, mix upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols in a non-predictable way to reduce the risk of them being cracked.
- DON'T reuse passwords or passphrases. Admittedly this is hard, especially when so many sites require it, but only one set of leaked credentials could grant access to all of your accounts.
- DON'T use common words and expected substitutions. Any word on its own is bad. Any combination of a few words, especially if they grammatically go together isn't great either. For example, "mouse" is a terrible password. "Small brown mouse" is also very bad. Likewise, password crackers are familiar with the usual substitutions – "M0use" isn't strong just because the o was replaced with a 0.

FB-ISAO Advisory Board

Get to Know the Board of Advisors

Contact Us

Company Name
FB-ISAO

Email
Info@faithbased-isao.org

Website
www.faithbased-isao.org

Not Yet a Member of FB-ISAO?

How to join…

Not Yet on FB-ISAO Slack? You Need to Be!

Write to membership

Upcoming FB-ISAO Events

Office Hours. Meeting Invitations sent to all members via email.	Every Tuesday at 1:00pm ET starting on 17 January 2023

Physical Security Maturity Model

Every organization faces threats and risks to routine operations. Many use maturity models to monitor, assess, and improve their methods and procedures according to accepted operating standards and best practices. Maturity models are predicated on the notion that most processes progress through developmental stages, and '*mature*' from design and initial implementation through adoption, practice, and integration toward perfection. Maturity models help organizations set process improvement objectives and priorities; and provide a method for appraising the state of the organization's current practices. As one practitioner explains, "Utilizing (maturity modeling) can help an organization identify the areas where their process is reactive to security threats… (and) rework their processes to be more proactive and implement measurable improvements."

The Operational Resilience Working Group has started work on developing a Physical Security Maturity Model. If you would like to participate in the effort, please write to memebrship@faithbased-isao.org.

Models vary according to the type of organization, its operating environment, nature of risks encountered, and the organization's awareness and ability to manage its processes. There is presently no recognized standard for assessing a faith-based organization's security operations; nor is there an accepted path forward for those organizations that seek to improve or mature their operations and manage them according to an established set of industry best practices. This effort proposes to study the viability of defining maturity models for use by faith-based organizations; identify and describe what functions the models would assess; the maturation stages that security processes would follow from their early adoption through full integration in the Faith-Based Organization's (FBO) operations; propose standards against which organizations could assess and evaluate their operations, and what tools or methods might be used; and identify the benefits that would accrue from adopting them.

Spotlight: Members Appreciate Their Peers

In 2022, member engagement increased, and some members even stepped up to be FORCE MULTIPLIERS. Members lead Working Groups, participate in After-Action Reviews, and share best practices. For an ISAO to mature and be successful **member engagement is vital!** Read more here. In 2022, four members were recognized, by their peers, for their contributions: **Edward Heyman, Eli Russ, Vincent Nasti, and Karl Yesse**. Please join me in congratulating our force multipliers.

To learn more about the FB-ISAO Member Recognition Program, read this blog post.