

Volume 5, Issue 2

February 2023

TLP:CLEAR

[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

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FB-ISAO Newsletter

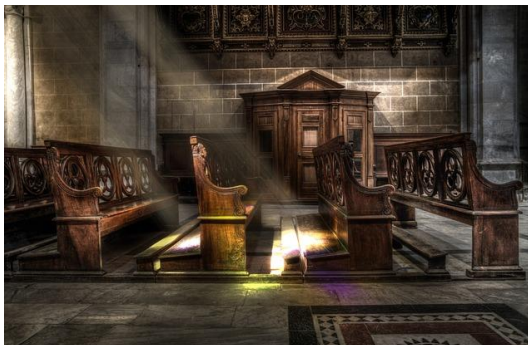
Two Churches - One Type of Scam



A church in North Carolina announced this week that threat actors [stole nearly \\$800,000](#) in an email scam. The church had spent several years raising the money to build a new sanctuary that was targeted for completion in a few months. The incident occurred in November to the Elkin Valley Baptist Church. In an incident [eerily similar](#) to one that occurred in 2019 in which a church in Ohio was scammed out of \$1.2 million, the Elkin Valley Baptist Church received an email that

mimicked another message from the sanctuary builder with payment instructions.

Business Email Compromise (BEC) scam. According to Microsoft, [BEC is a type of cybercrime](#) where the threat actor “uses email to trick someone into sending money or divulging confidential company info.” Typically, the threat actor will pose as a trusted figure, then ask for a fake bill to be paid or for sensitive data they can use in another scam. In 2021, the



FBI [reported](#) that there were approximately 20,000 BEC complaints. In July 2022, FB-ISAO hosted the Cyber Road Show (CRS.) The CRS was an opportunity to learn about both general cyber security terms and threats and a specific cybersecurity threat, Business Email Compromise (BEC). You

can learn more about the BEC and the [Cyber Road Show here](#).

Protecting against BEC means adhering to basic security principles:

- Train, train, and train again on recognizing suspicious emails and the [tell-tale signs of phishing attacks](#). Phishing remains a primary platform to gain access to your network which can then facilitate BEC attacks.
- Don’t click on anything in an unsolicited email or text message asking you to update or verify account information. Look up the company’s phone number on your own (don’t use the one a potential scammer is providing) and call the company to ask if the request is legitimate.
- Carefully examine the email address, URL, and spelling used in any correspondence. Scammers use slight differences to trick your eye and gain your trust.
- Be careful what you download. Never open an email attachment from someone you don’t know and be wary of email attachments forwarded to you.
- Be especially wary if the requestor is pressing you to act quickly.

The FB-ISAO Weekly Security Advisory which was distributed on 02 February 2023 addressed the topic of Business Email Compromise in greater detail.

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
Coaching Session: How We Can Make a Difference	15 February at 2:00pm ET
2023 Educational Series: A Culture of Security	Monthly, the first Wednesday of each month at 12:00pm ET



FB-ISAO's 2023 Education Series

The Faith-Based Information Sharing & Analysis Organization (FB-ISAO) provides members with **information, analysis, and capabilities** to help **reduce risk** while enhancing **preparedness, security, and resilience**. We are an all-faiths and all-hazards information sharing organization.

One way to deliver on our mission is by way of providing members with education that raises awareness to help **reduce risk** while enhancing **preparedness, security, and resilience**.

The purpose of security awareness and training efforts should be to create a culture of security, meaning that security teams should view good security practices as good business and as part of “how we do worship safely here.” Security teams should feel enabled to make good security decisions and understand what makes a good decision. Ideally, training and education should be a continuous effort. In 2023, our education will focus on how to build a culture of security. The schedule is below. There are some months where no programming is planned - we held those back so we can be responsive to the ever-changing threat landscape and to respond to member needs and feedback on our programming.

- April 5: Security Planning Consideration and Teams
- May 3: Incident Response Planning (IRP)
- July 5: Welcoming and Secure
- August 2: De-escalation
- October 4: See Something Say Something
- November 1: Selling Security to Members and Leadership
- December 6: Looking back at 2023

The program is open to all members of FB-ISAO. Membership information is [available here](#).



Spotlight: Office Hours

Do you remember being in college and attending your professor’s office hours to get help with a complex math formula? Or perhaps you have an idea for your college paper and need to get some feedback on your topic. College office hours are held regularly and can be very useful to students.

In the interest of connecting with the FB-ISAO community on a regular basis, FB-ISAO is instituting weekly office hours. No appointment nor registration is necessary. Office hours are an opportunity for members to discuss needs for reporting, feedback on reporting, requests for new Slack channels, requests for specific information, requests for products or resources, and anything else.

Members of FB-ISAO can join office hours every Tuesday at 1:00pm ET!