Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2025

Week 2: The Four Essentials

65% of manufacturing organizations experienced ransomware attacks in 2024

4 EASY THINGS TO DO

Phishing Awareness

- **Recognize the Signs:** Look for poor writing, generic greetings, or mismatched email addresses (e.g., "pavpal.com"). Offers that seem too good to be true or use alarming language are red flags.
- **Resist & Spot:** Verify the authenticity of emails before clicking links or attachments. If suspicious, don't engage.
- **Report & Delete:** Use your email platform to report phishing and notify your IT department. Delete suspicious messages immediately.

Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)

How?

- **Something You Know:** Security questions.
- **Something You Have:** Apps generating codes, text messages, or hardware tokens.
- **Something You Are:** Biometric verification.

Why?

- Reduces unauthorized access.
- Protects sensitive information.
- Provides peace of mind with multiple safeguards.

Strengthening Passwords

- **Length:** At least 16 characters.
- **Randomness:** Use a mix of letters, numbers, and symbols.
- **Uniqueness:** Different password for every account.
- **Password Manager:** Use one to create, store, and autofill passwords.

Software Updates

- **Why:** Essential for device security and functionality.
- **Include:** Bug fixes, security patches, feature enhancements.

Risks of Delaying:

- Vulnerability to cyber threats.
- Potential data breaches.
- Operational inefficiencies.

CYBERSECURITY ESSENTIALS: QUICK DO'S & DON'TS

DO	DON'T
✅ Use unique, long passwords.	❌ Reuse passwords.
✅ Change default machine passwords.	❌ Use obvious/default passwords.
✅ Use a password manager.	❌ Write passwords down.
✅ Enable MFA on all critical systems.	❌ Share codes.
✅ Use authenticator apps.	❌ Skip MFA setup.
✅ Keep codes private.	❌ Rely on passwords alone.
✅ Keep PCs, servers, and equipment updated.	❌ Ignore updates.
✅ Test updates before full rollout.	❌ Skip OT updates without validation.
✅ Verify senders and links.	❌ Click unknown links or attachments.
✅ Report suspicious emails.	❌ Forward suspicious emails.
✅ Participate in phishing tests.	❌ Trust emails blindly.

Want to practice catching phishing emails? Click Here

Building a Cyber Strong America - Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2025
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