

Prioritizing Cybersecurity through Organizational Structure

Prepared by:

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Introductions

Kevin McMahan, Assistant Secretary of State



- Oversees Elections and ISR divisions, and Civic Engagement Program
- MAs in Homeland Security and Public Administration; BS in Telecommunications
- 10 years in industry; 20 years in military

Kylee Zabel, Information Security & Response Director

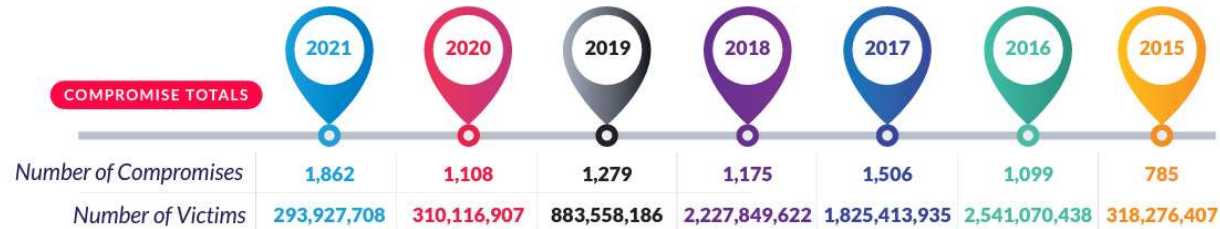


- Manages Information Security & Response Division
- BA in Communications and Political Science
- 10 years in strategic communications for government and nonprofit sectors

The Threat

Executive Summary

Compromise Trends 2015 to 2021



ATTACK VECTOR TRENDS				SECTOR TRENDS						
	2021	2020	2019	2021		2020		2019		
				Compromises // Victims		Compromises // Victims		Compromises // Victims		
Cyberattacks	1,613	878	928	Education	125	1,680,300	42	978,254	71	5,161,005
Phishing/Smishing/BEC	537	383	490	Financial Services	279	19,745,846	138	2,687,084	172	103,939,736
Ransomware	321	158	83	Government	66	3,244,455	47	1,100,526	64	1,193,791
Malware	139	104	112	Healthcare	330	28,045,658	306	9,700,238	398	9,080,498
Non-secured Cloud Environment	23	51	15	Hospitality	33	217,941	17	22,365,384	40	1,459,393
Credential Stuffing	14	17	3	Manufacturing & Utilities	222	49,775,124	70	2,896,627	103	70,265,156
Unpatched software flaw	4	3	3	Military	--	--	--	--	1	1,243
Zero Day Attack	4	1	n/a	Non-Profit/NGO	86	2,309,008	31	37,528	36	248,824
Other - not specified	436	161	222	Professional Services	184	22,697,765	144	73,012,132	84	1,694,188
NA	106	n/a	n/a	Retail	102	7,186,143	53	10,710,681	86	370,128,202
Human & System Errors	179	152	231	Technology	79	44,035,156	67	142,028,859	62	107,923,851
Failure to configure cloud security	54	57	56	Transportation	44	534,280	21	1,208,292	15	211,335
Correspondence (email/letter)	66	55	89	Other	308	79,223,368	172	43,391,302	147	212,250,964
Misconfigured firewall	13	4	4	Unknown	4	35,232,664	--	--	--	--
Lost device or document	12	5	19							
Other - not specified	34	31	63							
Physical Attacks	51	78	118							
Document Theft	9	15	19							
Device Theft	17	30	57							
Improper Disposal	5	11	14							
Skimming Device	1	5	4							
Other - not specified	19	17	24							
Unknown	12	n/a	2							

Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges

- Greater interest in election security
- State actors who want to undermine reputations
- Rapid growth in AI and the impact on misinformation

Opportunities

- To educate/inform the public
- To work with legislature to create and establish policy
- To build cyber resilient organizations



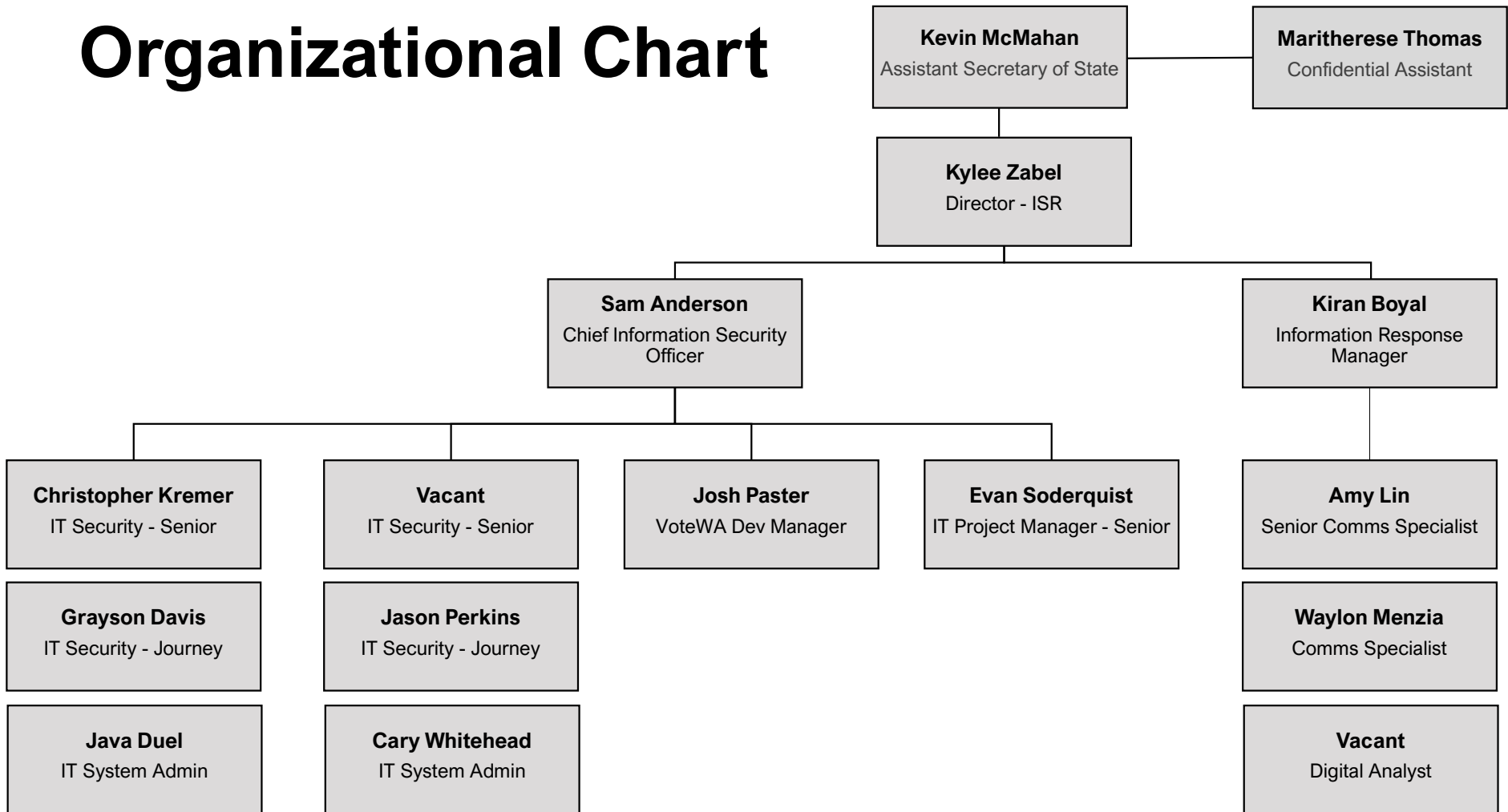
Our Solution: Information Security & Response

Mission: The Information Security & Response Division protects the integrity of the Office of the Secretary of State and Washington's election process through cybersecurity and strategic messaging.

Objectives:

- Detect and mitigate cybersecurity risk within the Office of the Secretary of State (OSOS) to ensure fulfillment of its constitutional and legislative responsibilities.
- Collaborate and share cybersecurity best practices with state, local, tribal, and private stakeholders to enable unity of effort.
- Identify and counter rumors that threaten the public's trust in Washington's electoral process to enable greater confidence in the integrity of elections.
- Create messaging and resources about cybersecurity and election integrity to support civic outreach and stakeholder engagement.

Organizational Chart



How are we similar?

- Collaboration with OSOS IT
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Standards
- Leverage strengths of federal and industry partners
 - Washington National Guard
 - Center for Internet Security
 - MS - & EI-ISACs



How are we different?

- CISO reports to the ISR Director, not the CIO
- Regionalized operations to assist counties with limited resources
- Cyber efforts nest with strategic messaging campaign
 - Integrity
 - Security
 - Education
- Election Security Funds



Election Security Funds

ISR Manages the Election Security Funds

- Legislative appropriations to support election security at the county
- Counties can receive \$80k per year for FY23, FY24, and FY25 (\$240K)
- Counties must have an operational and monitored Albert sensor
- Counties receive reimbursement for approved expenditures



Questions?

