EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR REPORT SEPTEMBER 2024

National Preparedness Month

- Recognized every September.

- We are all responsible for preparing ourselves, agencies, families.

- Build awareness and encourage Americans to take steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, schools, organizations, businesses, and places of worship.

- Know your risk and take the appropriate actions before, during and after a disaster strikes.
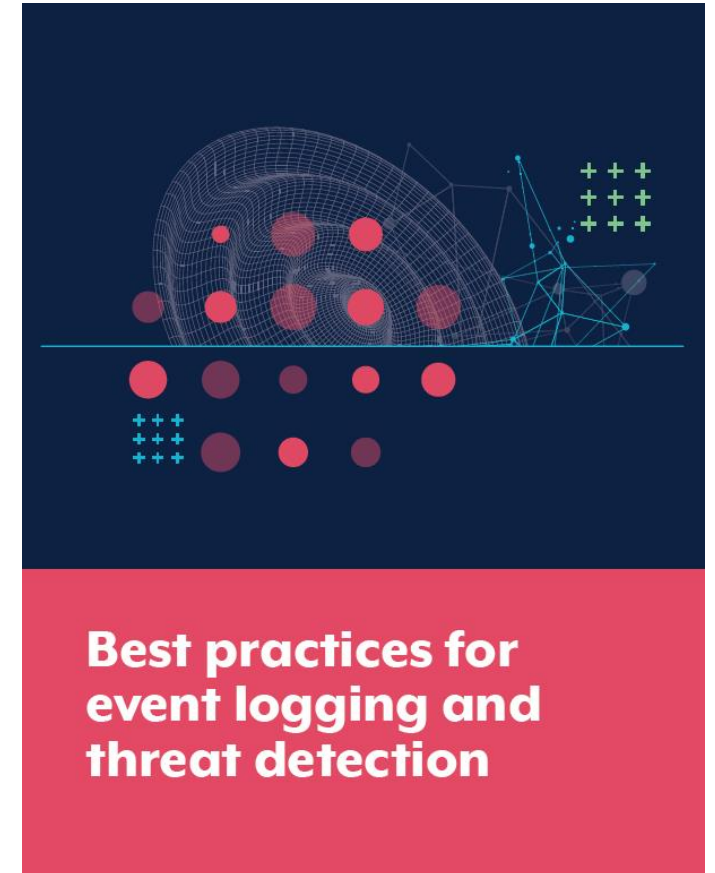
- Ready.gov

Russian Military Cyber Actors Advisory

- Released by FBI, CISA and NSA.
  - Assess that cyber actors affiliated with the Russian General Staff Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU) are responsible for computer network operations against US and global targets for espionage, sabotage, and reputational harm since at least 2020.

- Mitigation strategies:
  - Prioritize system updates & remediate known exploited vulnerabilities.
  - Segment networks to prevent the spread of malicious activity.
  - Enable phishing-resistant multifactor authentication (MFA) for all externally facing account services, especially for webmail, virtual private networks (VPNs), and accounts that access critical systems.

- https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/cybersecurity-advisories/aa24-249a
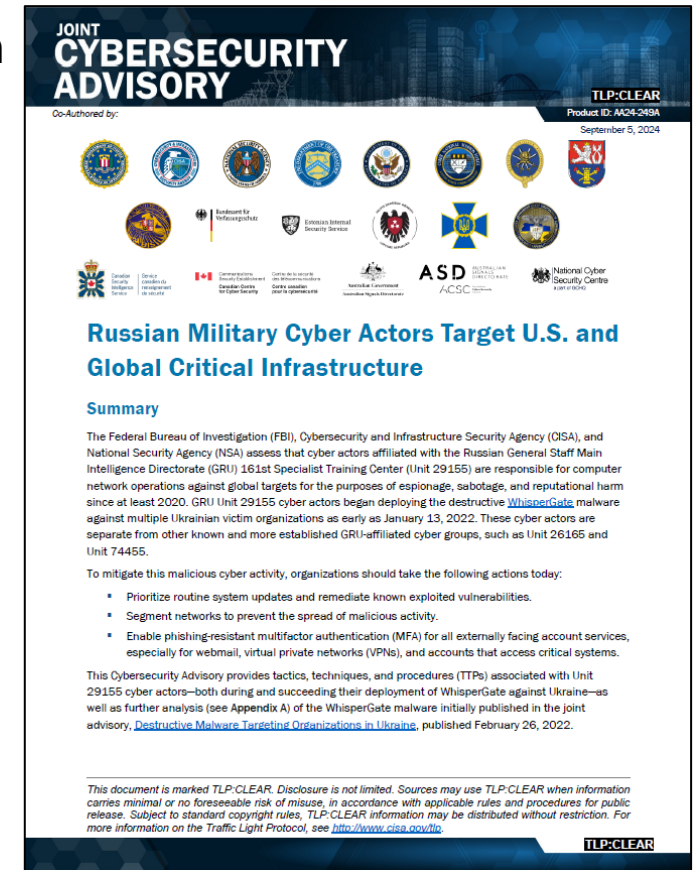
Best Practices: Event Logs & Threat Detection

- Released by Australian Signals Directorate's Australian Cyber Security Centre (ASD's ACSC), CISA, FBI, NSA, and other international partners.
    - Increased prevalence of malicious actors employing living off the land (LOTL) techniques – Fileless malware, various downloads, etc.

- The key factors for logging best practices:
    - Enterprise approved logging policy;
    - Centralized log access and correlation;
    - Secure storage and log integrity; and
    - Detection strategy for relevant threats.

- https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/alerts/2024/08/21/asds-acsc-cisa-fbi-and-nsa-support-international-partners-release-best-practices-event-logging-and

Best practices for event logging and threat detection

Priority Telecommunications Service (PTS)

- PTS includes:
  - Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS): <u>wireline</u>
  - Wireless Priority Service (WPS): <u>wireless</u>
  - Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP): circuit repair and installation

- Presently voice only. Working on data.

- PTS Dialer app

- Need more than GETS if using cellular

- Priority extends beyond provider network boundaries.

- <u>https://www.cisa.gov/pts</u>

Priority Telecommunications Service Numbers

- Current numbers for Iowa
  - GETS
    - Nationwide: 498K
    - Iowa: 3,183 (6.72% of eligible)
  - WPS
    - Nationwide: 973K
    - Iowa: 2,655 (5.61% of eligible)
  - TSP Nationwide
    - 395K

- https://www.cisa.gov/pts

Regional News of Note

- Communications Exercises:
  - Central States COMMEX – Joplin (MO)/Quapaw (OK) from September 10-13, 2024

- Technical Assistance Request Period
  - Begins in October with delivery target dates through April.
  - Longer fuse projects may extend past that
  - Contact SWIC Nichols for more information

- Interoperability Markers updates completed in Region 7.
  - Results are being tabulated.
  - Expect distribution of results within the next few months.

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