

CyberReady Florida



A CyberSecure Florida Training Initiative
News - Awareness - Education & Training



Cybersecurity Incidents Protections Possible

Florida lawmakers seek to limit liability for local governments and businesses related to cybersecurity incidents. Bills in the House (HB 473) and Senate (SB 658) move forward in both chambers. If the bills become law, then organizations and companies that abide by the guidelines will not be held liable for cybersecurity incidents. [Read more.](#)



Financial Services Are Always a Target

SouthState Bank, based in Winter Haven, discovered a cyberattack in progress on Feb. 6. The report filed with the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) details the actions taken to contain it and an initial assessment of no material effect on “business operations or financial conditions”. The bank has hired a cybersecurity firm to assist with the investigation. SouthState Bank has more than one million customers throughout Florida, Georgia, Alabama, the Carolinas, and Virginia. See the 8-K filing here. [Read more.](#)



Four recent cyberattacks on major mortgage and title companies are thought to be crimes of opportunity rather than a concerted effort, according to experts at the U.S. Treasury Department. The financial services sector is a magnet for cyber criminals due to its critical role securing the economy and the amount of sensitive data involved. Companies are advised to set up phishing-resistant multi-factor authentication and patch known vulnerabilities immediately to significantly reduce their risks. [Read more.](#)



Bringing Cyber Criminals to Justice

A Florida man named Niselio Barros Garcia Jr. has confessed to laundering money tied to scams that preyed on Americans. Over \$2.3 million in ill-gotten funds were diverted to collaborators in Nigeria. Garcia’s network profited from romance scams and hacking business emails for banking privileges. The FBI Buffalo Office continues to investigate other suspects involved who remain at large. Read the US Department of Justice press release for [more information.](#)

Vladimir Dunaev, has been sentenced to five years and four months in prison for his deployment of the malicious Trickbot software engine. Dunaev and associates



deployed Trickbot as malware leading to ransomware attacks against hospitals, schools, and businesses worldwide. With strong evidence and international support Dunaev was extradited from South Korea to the Northern District of Ohio where 10 victims lost \$3.4 million. [Read more](#)

Mother of All Breaches



The largest-ever data leak of personal credentials in one place has cybersecurity professionals urging vigilance in your digital footprint. The super-massive breach pulls together data from an estimated 3,800 breaches with 26 billion records. Most of the data were previously leaked, but it is widely thought that newly gathered data is also included. People are encouraged to check their accounts for password duplicates, turn on multi-factor authentication (MFA) whenever possible, and to beware of new phishing attempts through email, texts, and social media accounts. Check if your data is included and [read more here](#).



CyberReady Florida Training Courses

All courses are FREE to any Florida-based public sector employee, including state, county, and municipal employees, elected officials, law enforcement personnel, public school teachers, and public college and university employees.

Cybersecurity Awareness Course

This course explores fundamental cybersecurity topics and current best practices. It covers all the topics included in the curriculum of "Cybersecurity Awareness Training" as described in The Local Government Cybersecurity Resource Packet of FL[DS]. An approximate 4-hour training, it is online and self-paced.

Mid-level Managers Course

This course is designed for managers, supervisors, and team leads, who have a solid understanding of their department's operations. While technical expertise is not required, participants should possess basic familiarity with cybersecurity concepts.

Technical Training for Industry Certification

This course prepares participants for the ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity (ISC2-CC) exam. It is ideal for cybersecurity practitioners, IT managers, network administrators, system analysts, and individuals responsible for securing organizational assets.

Executive Training for Senior Leadership

This half-day workshop is tailored to meet the cybersecurity needs of department heads and senior-level administrators. This course empowers administrators to make informed decisions and provide strategic guidance in safeguarding their agencies against cyber threats.



Earn a Certificate of Completion

Upon successful course completion, participants earn a digital badge and certificate issued by the University of South Florida.



Visit [CyberSecureFlorida Training Initiative](#) for a complete listing of current training and other resources available to you.

Please feel free to reach out to us at CyberReady@usf.edu for any questions or clarifications.

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Prof. Shivendu Shivendu and Prof. Varol Kayhan
Muma College of Business
University of South Florida

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CyberReady Florida - USF Muma College of Business | 4202 E. Fowler Ave, Tampa, FL 33620

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