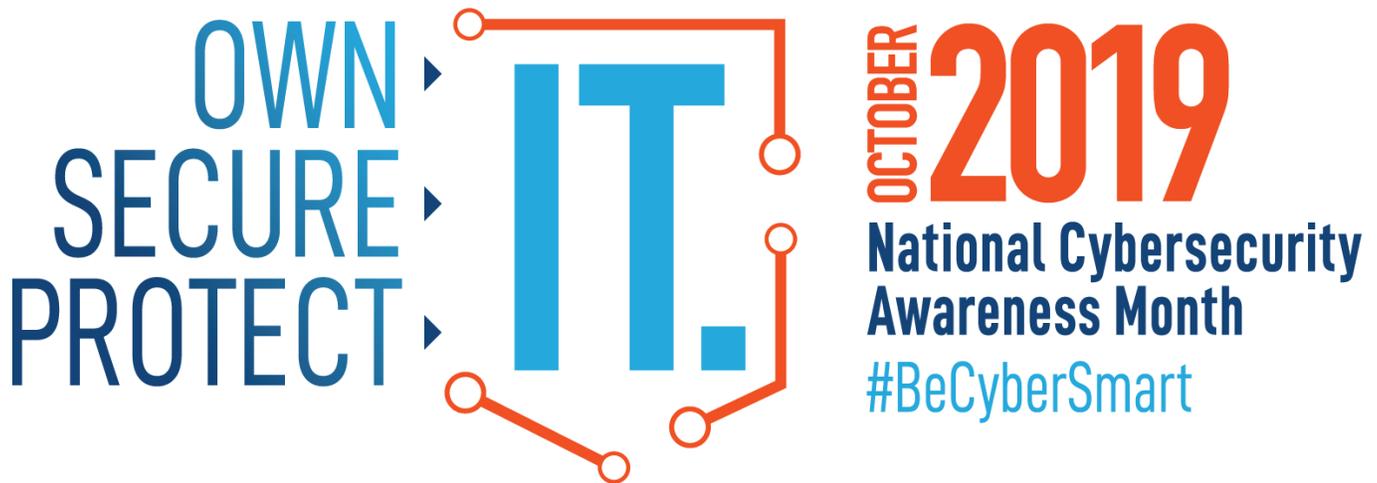


# MEL CYBER TASK FORCE UPDATE

## 2019 Cybersecurity Awareness Month

This October is the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, created and supported by the US Department of Homeland Security and the National Cyber Security Alliance. The overall goal is simply to promote better cybersecurity practices amongst the citizens and throughout organizations. 2019's specific theme is entitled "Own IT. Secure IT. Protect IT."



### Own IT.

- ✓ Never click and tell: staying safe on social media
- ✓ Update privacy settings
- ✓ Keep tabs on your apps: best practice for device applications

### Secure IT.

- ✓ Shake up your passphrase protocol: create strong, unique passphrases
- ✓ Double your login protection: turn on multi-factor authentication
- ✓ Shop safe online
- ✓ Play hard to get with strangers: how to spot and avoid phish

### Protect IT.

- ✓ If you connect, you must protect: updating to the latest security software, web browser and operating systems
- ✓ Stay protected while connected: Wi-Fi safety
- ✓ If you collect it, protect it: keeping customer/consumer data and information safe

Visit the National Cyber Security Alliance's website for more details: <https://staysafeonline.org/ncsam/>

For details, contact the MEL Underwriting  
Manager or your local JIF Executive Director



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## **\*\* Important Security News \*\***

### **Windows 7 – End of Life**

Microsoft will be ending support for its Windows 7 operating system on January 14, 2020. Aside from the lack of technical support and updates, of most important is the **end of any security updates or fixes**. Security patching is a critical cyber risk management step and a required part of the MEL Cyber Compliance program. Please review the message from Microsoft: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-7-end-of-life-support-information>

### **Social Engineering Holiday Scams**

Should you click on that UPS email even though you didn't order anything? Should you click on that pop-up ad? With the holiday season upon us, social engineering spikes, and these are just a few of the questions you should be asking yourself to stay safe online. Check out the guide from Stop.Think.Connect:

<https://www.stopthinkconnect.org/resources/preview/cyber-safe-holiday-shopping-resource>

### **NJ Municipalities Publication**

The MEL JIF and Rutgers' Bloustein Local were featured in the recent publication of NJ Municipalities, both discussing local government cyber risk. The MEL article discusses the current state of cyber risk and addresses the cybersecurity solutions we promote, and the Bloustein article dovetails it with a guide to better technology management. Find both articles here:

<http://go.rutgers.edu/qyhxid14>

### **US Utilities Targeted**

There have been multiple imminent warnings from federal agencies of cyberattacks against US Utilities. In early 2019, although we did not see many downstream effects as citizens, it was confirmed state-sponsored actors infiltrated major US Utilities. And this event is only one of many in the past year. Aside from MEL material, review the information and solutions provided by these other agencies: ICS-CERT (<https://www.us-cert.gov/ics>), Water ISAC (<https://www.waterisac.org/>), and Electric ISAC (<https://www.nerc.com/pa/CI/ESISAC/Pages/default.aspx>).

### **Security for your IoT (Internet of Things) Devices**

Keep your home or office secure with a camera doorbell that you can watch on your phone from anywhere in the world. Ask your connected speaker to play your favorite song. There are tons of useful and fun devices like these in the marketplace, expected to spike to over 20 Billion by 2020. While they add convenience, safety and entertainment into our lives, they can present major cybersecurity challenges if not managed properly. Your IT manager can help with advanced security for these devices, but here are three basics anyone can do at work or at home, provided by Stay Safe Online:

<https://staysafeonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Internet-of-Things-Infographic.pdf>

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