



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
Enterprise IT Services Division

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MEMORANDUM

February 25, 2022

TO: All Agencies

FROM: Robert Dehnhardt, State Chief Information Security Officer

SUBJECT: **Increased Risk of Cyberattacks**

Given Russia's military action in Ukraine this week, and Russia's history of conducting cyberattacks in coordination with real-world military operations, there is currently an increased risk of cyberattacks across the U.S. This includes an elevated risk of attacks against state and local systems as well as federal government and high-profile private enterprises, including critical infrastructure. Attacks have already been detected in some states and could continue and escalate in the coming days and weeks.

There is currently no reason to believe that the State of Nevada is a direct target of Russian cyberattacks; however, we have taken several precautions to ensure the safety of state networks and the computing environment. These steps include enhanced perimeter defenses, 24/7 security monitoring, and threat hunting for known and emerging indicators of compromise. Much of this was in place well before the situation in Ukraine began to escalate, and we are now operating at a heightened level of awareness.

Employees should remain vigilant and be suspicious of attachments or links sent by email, SMS text message, or other potential attack vectors, including social media. If you receive a suspicious email, do not click any links it contains or open any attachment. Report the suspicious email using the Phish Alert button in your Outlook client. If you observe any other suspicious cybersecurity activity, please report it to Infosec@admin.nv.gov.

Additionally, all employees are encouraged to help make our state systems more secure by practicing good password hygiene:

- Never use the same password for multiple accounts.
- Never write down passwords or store them somewhere obvious.
- Never reveal your passwords to anyone.

Security is a team sport—none of us individually can protect everything, but working together, we can stand against the tide. Thank you all for your efforts in keeping Nevada safe.