

# WISCONSIN STRATEGIC IT PLAN

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2024 - 2026

# Strategic IT Plan Goals



## **SERVING WISCONSIN**

Provide an exceptional customer experience that is accessible to all individuals.



## **SECURING WISCONSIN**

Continue efforts to best secure and mitigate risk to state systems and data.



## **TRANSFORMING WISCONSIN**

Transform government programs and services through its people, processes, and technology.



## **WORKING WISCONSIN**

Cultivate and promote a strong, collaborative workforce to make the State of Wisconsin an employer of choice.

# Securing Wisconsin

Continue efforts to best secure and mitigate risk to State systems and data.

With the meteoric rise of generative artificial intelligence (AI)<sup>xii</sup>, as well as regional conflicts, the cybersecurity landscape has numerous, significant risks that must be addressed to maintain the security of State data, information systems, and IT resources. While there are many tactics that can help to keep systems and data secure, continuing to focus on cybersecurity fundamentals<sup>xiii</sup> and good cyber hygiene<sup>xiv</sup> provide the strongest foundation to deter attacks.

## OBJECTIVE

Bolster whole-of-state efforts to enhance cybersecurity.

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Safeguard information to maintain trust and confidence in state systems and services in a rapidly changing security landscape.



# Securing Wisconsin

## Bolster whole-of-state efforts to enhance cybersecurity.

Within the last year, major Wisconsin employers<sup>xv</sup> and healthcare systems<sup>xvi</sup> have faced cybersecurity incidents which resulted in the release of confidential or otherwise sensitive information. State government plays a key role in detecting, identifying, and responding to cyber incidents that affect not only State government information systems, but also local governments and critical infrastructure.

With the increased reliance on technology to provide critical services and power critical infrastructure, the State must create opportunities for cybersecurity collaboration with governments at all levels and with the private sector. Wisconsin's Homeland Security Council includes a Cybersecurity Subcommittee with representatives from various sectors, like healthcare, education, and energy, to provide input on the State's cybersecurity posture. The State also adjusts as impacts from other global and national cyber threats and events occur.

The State of Wisconsin's Cyber Response Team ("CRT"), housed in Wisconsin Emergency Management, is one way the State aids local governments and private-sector partners who may need assistance responding to a cybersecurity incident. The CRT is comprised of volunteers inside and outside State government who participate in regular training and exercises and may be called upon to respond to cybersecurity incidents. In the coming years, the State will be increasing collaboration, increasing awareness of staff and resources available, providing training opportunities for CRT members, and conducting exercises and assessments to validate planning efforts.

Wisconsin is also participating in the State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, a collaborative effort coordinated by the federal Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This four-year effort is meant to catalyze the adoption of cybersecurity best practices by tribes, state and local governments, public schools, and libraries. For the first grant year, this program is funding the adoption of multi-factor authentication and managed detection and response capabilities. Over the life of the grant, the State will be using the funding to support additional improvements in cybersecurity with the overall goal of hardening information systems against attack.

We strive to improve cybersecurity communication across all entities of Wisconsin, furthering what it takes to bolster cyber defenses at all levels and collaborating on critical aspects across the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) five pillars of Identify, Protect, Detect, Respond, and Recover which stand to benefit all of us. These pillars provide a level of guidance and structure to assist in the development of a cybersecurity program at any level and focus on the criticality of preparedness.

# Securing Wisconsin

Safeguard information to maintain trust and confidence in State systems and services in a rapidly changing security landscape.

Verizon's 2024 Data Breach Intelligence Report <sup>xvii</sup> identifies financial gain as the reason for more than 60% of data breaches worldwide. While foreign actors may wish to take down State information systems for national security reasons, many bad actors—domestic and foreign—are seeking information that can be monetized, either through direct exploitation or sale to a third party.

State agencies maintain highly sensitive information. Safeguarding the data that has been entrusted to us is one of our paramount responsibilities, and we must constantly adjust our measures to defend against evolving threats. Over the coming biennium, we will continue to focus our efforts on key initiatives that will continue to bolster our cybersecurity and privacy postures.

In 2019, the State of Wisconsin established an enterprise cybersecurity framework based on the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) *Special Publication 800-53: Security and Privacy Controls for Information Systems and Organizations* ("NIST SP 800-53"). Using these standards has allowed the State to build a federated framework, where executive branch agencies are directed to adopt the State's enterprise security policies and standards and apply them to their operating environment.

To build on and further strengthen our cybersecurity posture, DOA's Division of Enterprise Technology (DET) is working with agencies utilizing the enterprise cybersecurity framework to develop strategies and roadmaps that align with the changing threat landscape and take advantage of the security benefits of the controls inherent within the framework. Some of the tactics DET plans to use include: identifying and utilizing DET and agency subject matter experts to share information among and across agencies, establishing a committee to develop guidance, and creating a forum where this information can be easily and securely shared.

NIST published a standalone Privacy Framework in 2019, which shows how cybersecurity and privacy interrelate. The State will be working to enhance its privacy posture by analyzing how the State collects, uses, maintains, disseminates, and disposes of personally identifiable information (PII), and utilize common privacy frameworks (such as NIST and others) to improve upon our current privacy practices. Doing so will help ensure the protection and privacy of confidential information that cannot be disclosed or shared under state or federal law.

Finally, the State will continue to educate and raise cybersecurity and privacy awareness among its workforce. Given the continuing volume and proliferation of attacks by bad actors against the State of Wisconsin, we recognize that regular training will help the State to strengthen its cybersecurity posture.

# Endnotes

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