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Cyber security FAQ's

1. What is cyber security?

Cyber security is the practice of defending computers, servers, mobile devices, electronic systems, phone systems (VOIP), networks, and data from malicious attacks. It's also known as information technology **security** or electronic information **security**.

2. Why do I need cyber security?

Cyberattacks are an evolving danger to organizations, employees and consumers. They may be designed to access or destroy sensitive data or extort money and have penetrated Bluetooth and WiFi networks. To avoid suffering data breaches, businesses must implement stronger controls to help them detect and respond to more advanced malicious activity before it can cause damage and disrupt your operations. When dealing with defense procurements, your organization will require higher security to protect any and all information shared between Prime Contractors. This includes limiting individual access to that information.

3. My company only uses internet for emails, do I still require cyber security?

Yes, as the information being sent can be intercepted by cyber criminals. It is recommended that basic cyber hygiene includes:

- Avoid clicking messages and email links from unknown sources—phishing through embedded links is a trick hackers use to steal personal information
- Use strong passwords, avoiding phrases or personal information that are easy to guess
- Visit only those websites that have authentic SSL certificates and secure URLs
- Update and upgrade your operating system, antivirus software, and browser regularly
- Do not give out personal information to people who claim to know you or claim to be representing a service or company you use
- Back up your data in the cloud
- Be careful when downloading files, because hackers' tricks include hiding malware in safe-looking links
- Always turn on firewall settings for auto-updates

4. What is CMMC and how does that affect organizations in Canada?

The *Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification* is a US-based and enforceable measure of cyber security which is still in its infancy stage. The proposed model will affect any Canadian business working with any US counterparts, specifically in defence procurement. At the present time, there is no Canadian company qualified to audit for the US model; however, as 2021 approaches, all companies doing any government or military procurements in the US will be required to have at least a Level 1 of CMMC. *C*MMC Levels will be specified on US DoD contracts, and organizations will need to have the applicable CMMC certification prior to contract award. Organizations without CMMC certification may be disqualified from contracts requiring certified suppliers.

5. **My organization is ISO 270001 certified, do I still require CMMC?**

   The unfortunate answer is yes; however, CMMC is based on NIST-800 and ISO 27001 controls, levels of cyber hygiene will already be in place for your organization.

For more information on cyber security in Canada, please visit:

Cyber Secure Canada https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/137.nsf/eng/h_00016.html

CMMC https://www.acq.osd.mil/cmmc/faq.html

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