

Building Our IT Security Lines of Defense

Working together to protect
Government's IT systems.

saskatchewan.ca



Government's IT System Security



- October is Cyber Security Awareness month.
- Now is the time to reflect on our security practices and identify ways we can improve.

saskatchewan.ca



Cyber Security Awareness month is here.

It's an internationally recognized month for vigilance and protection by all computer users.

While the security practices we apply when using Government's IT systems should be habit, the threats we face continue to evolve. For this reason, we also need to update the way we handle them.

Now, during Cyber Security Awareness month, it is an especially appropriate time for all of us, as employees of the Saskatchewan public service, to reflect on our security practices and identify ways we can improve.

Why Security Matters



We are entrusted with sensitive public data. Last year alone:

- Tens of millions of intrusion attempts were made.
- The Internet was the main vehicle for attempted attacks.
- Fourteen million viruses were removed.
- 80 per cent of emails were blocked through spam technologies.

saskatchewan.ca



The people of Saskatchewan have entrusted us with their sensitive data.

It is our duty to protect it, and this is done in large part by following strong security procedures.

Failure to protect public data can have a negative impact on individuals, families, or even the entire province and public safety.

Last year, tens of millions of intrusion attempts were prevented from affecting the Government network. These included malware or viruses, spam, probes and more targeted attempts.

The Internet was the main vehicle for attempted attacks.

Antivirus software removed 14 million viruses from government computers.

Of the emails that attempted to access the network, more than 80 per cent of them were blocked through spam technologies.

Our Shared Responsibility



IT Security is a shared responsibility. Government's security program features:

- multiple layers;
- a variety of security technologies;
- policies to protect IT systems and govern employees' use;
- IT Security professionals;
- Ministry Security Officers;
- investments in network security; and
- classification and protection of data.

saskatchewan.ca



Protection of Government's data is a shared responsibility.

The IT division of Central Services has an extensive IT Security Program in place to protect against threats. Here are some highlights of the program:

- A multi-layer defense system protects each level of our IT systems. Protection exists at the database, application, server, workstation and network level.
- Security technologies include firewalls, intrusion detection systems, access control systems and antivirus and encryption solutions.
- An IT Acceptable Usage policy is in place to govern employees' use of Government's IT resources. A Social Media policy exists to govern employees' social media use. In addition, all employees are bound by a new Information Security policy. All three of these policies can be accessed at www.employeeservices.gov.sk.ca/ITSecurity.
- Government has a centralized team of IT security professionals who monitor and handle security events.
- Ministry Security Officers exist across government. They meet regularly with the IT division of Central Services on security issues.

- Government invests in updating, improving and enhancing its network security.
- All IT initiatives in government are required to classify and protect their information using industry best-practices.

Even with the most robust IT security program in place, our IT environment cannot be secured without the help of all users. Each of us has an active role to play.

IT Policies



- IT Acceptable Usage policy
- Information Security policy
- Social Media policy

See them at: www.employeeservices.gov.sk.ca/ITSecurity

saskatchewan.ca



Government of Saskatchewan has an expectation that its employees properly use the workplace IT resources they are provided to do their work.

All users of the Government of Saskatchewan's Information Technology systems are bound by the Acceptable Usage Policy, and government's new Information Security Policy.

As a result, employees should read and be familiar with these policies.

Social Media has become an established method of communicating, and has sometime even come to be part of our workplace responsibilities.

It is also important for all of us to understand Government's social media policies.

These policies can be accessed on the IT Security webpage at www.employeeservices.gov.sk.ca/ITSecurity.

Education and Awareness



Check out the new IT Security education and awareness materials:

- IT security handbook
- Tip sheet
- Quiz
- Infographic

See them at: www.employeeservices.gov.sk.ca/ITSecurity

saskatchewan.ca



A variety of education and awareness materials are available, so that we have the most current advice on how to protect Government's systems and data.

These include the following:

- A handbook on IT security, covering topics like social engineering, phishing, password security, application use, social media, USB drive storage, working on the go, lost or stolen devices, found devices, and calendar security.
- An IT security tip sheet, with quick tips to keep in mind.
- A quiz for testing your Internet security IQ.
- An infographic about Government's security program.

Please visit the IT security webpage at www.employeeservices.gov.sk.ca/ITSecurity, and familiarize yourself with these materials.

Teamwork to Keep Data Safe



- IT security risks continue to evolve.
- Together, all users can contribute to the protection of government's systems.

saskatchewan.ca



It's easy to keep the same old IT security habits we've always had, but the risks to our IT systems don't stand still.

With partnered efforts, all users of the Government of Saskatchewan and the IT division of Central Services can contribute to the protection of Government's systems, and keep our data safe.

saskatchewan.ca