6 Cyber Focus Areas for 2025

govloop

State and local agencies are feeling a growing sense of urgency about cybersecurity. One reason is simply the increasing frequency of cyberattacks, said John Godfrey, Kansas' Chief Information Security Officer. "It used to be you had days, weeks, maybe months [between incidents]," said Godfrey, speaking a recent GovLoop virtual event. "Now, it's like you have hours or minutes — more likely minutes, in most cases."

During the event, underwritten by Socure, Godfrey highlighted five areas in which agencies should focus their cyber efforts. Jordan Burris, Vice President and General Manager for Public Sector at Socure, discussed a sixth, the importance of digital identity verification to securing digital services.

RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

#1

Given the increasing velocity of cyberattacks, agencies can't count on detecting and preventing every threat. That is why agencies must put more effort into planning for, responding to and recovering from successful attacks.

AUDITING AND MONITORING

#2

In the age of zero-trust security, talking about cyber audits and monitoring can seem decidedly old school, but it's as essential as ever. However, unlike the old days, when audits and monitoring were episodic, agencies need to make it a continuous practice.

STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES

#3

Think about the Cybersecurity Framework (CSF) as a cyber starter kit. Developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the CSF provides agencies with a proven body of standards and best practices they can work toward adopting, measuring their progress over time.

CROSS-SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

#4

While your agency is responsible for its own cybersecurity, you don't have to go it alone. Individual agencies can turn for guidance to their state cybersecurity office or to the federal government's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. But you can also share threat information with other agencies or even with organizations in the private sector.

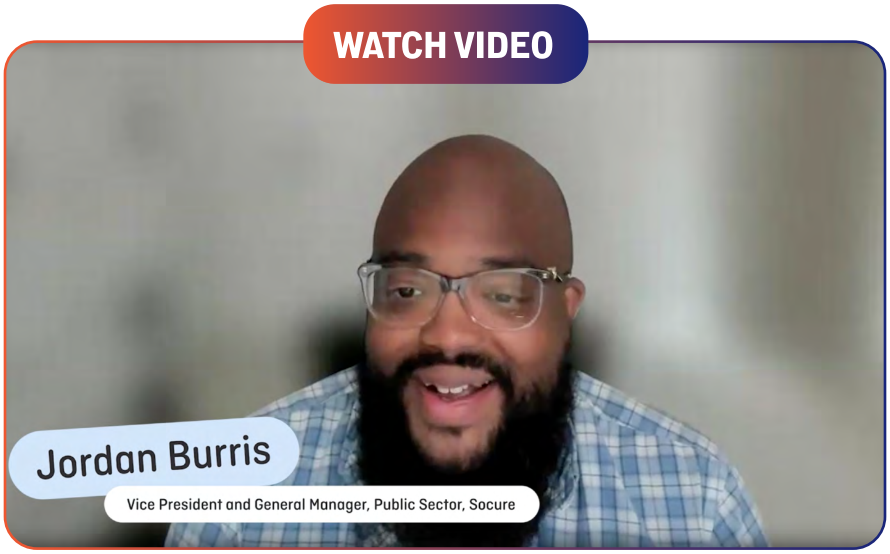
EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING

#5

While employee burnout is often a problem when teams are short-staffed, cyber professionals are especially at risk, given the unrelenting cadence of attacks. Although there are no quick fixes — pay certainly isn't one — agencies should do what they can to help cyber teams find a little work-life balance.

#6

How to Balance Security, CX in Digital Identity Verification



Agencies find themselves in a tough spot when providing online services that require identity verification. They must take every feasible measure to safeguard against the omnipresent risk of fraud, in compliance with an extensive and complex set of laws and policies. Such measures are inarguably necessary.

But those efforts run the risk of creating a process in which people experience unnecessary delays and difficulties trying to access benefits and services online, said Jordan Burris with Socure, which provides identity verification solutions.

In this video interview, Burris discusses how agencies both improve the end-user experience and reduce the risk of fraud. Topics include:

→ Four common mistakes that agencies make in their identity verification programs

→ Why the "80% solution" mindset doesn't work with the identity verification process

→ How to gain greater visibility into the risks in your services ecosystem

> "It's a false choice that organizations have often been led to believe, that you either have to accept that fraud is going to happen or that you have to apply a ton of friction to the process and fail to meet people where they are."
>
> *- Jordan Burris, Vice President and General Manager for Public Sector at Socure*

ABOUT SOCURE

Socure is the leading provider of digital identity verification and fraud prevention solutions, trusted by the largest enterprises and government agencies to build trust and mitigate risk. Leveraging AI and machine learning (ML), Socure's industry-leading platform achieves the highest accuracy, automation and capture rates in the industry. With the acquisition of Effectiv, Socure expands its capabilities to offer end-to-end identity fraud and payment risk management, integrating advanced transaction monitoring, credit underwriting and know-your-business (KYB) solutions into its platform.

Learn more about Socure