**CYBERSECURITY CONVERSATION STARTER**

**IT: Introduction**

# Learnings to share with your it colleague

I’ve been learning about some of the most **common types of cyber threats**, including phishing, scanning, ransomware, and denial-of-service.

I participated in a **simulation tabletop exercise** in which I had to think about how our office would respond to a denial-of-service attack.

I learned about how to create **stronger passwords** that are easier to remember and how to implement **2-factor authentication**.

# Questions to ask your IT colleague

Are you signed up for notices from [**MS-ISAC**](https://www.cisecurity.org/ms-isac/) **and** [**EI-ISAC**](https://www.cisecurity.org/ei-isac/)? If so, how do you typically react to them?

What systems do we have in place to **monitor our network and identify scanning activity**? Can you show me an example of a network activity log?

Do we have an IDS, or **intrusion detection system**? If so, can you tell me about the program and how it works? What kinds of alerts have you gotten from the IDS?

As an office, how do we handle **software updates and patches**? How do we make sure that patches are installed in a timely way?

Do we have anything in place to **protect against denial-of-service attacks**? If so, what do we have? If not, can we pursue a partnership with [Cloudflare’s Athenian Project](https://www.cloudflare.com/athenian/) or [Google’s Project Shield](https://projectshield.withgoogle.com/landing)?

If our **website were attacked**, do you have a plan for what to do with the server?

Do our office employees get any instruction on how to avoid **phishing attempts**?

I’m interested in putting my team through a **tabletop exercise** to test their readiness in the event of a cyberattack. Do you have familiarity with tabletop exercises, and are you able to participate in the event?

I understand that cybersecurity requires resources. In closing, do you have any **resource needs** that you’d like to talk about? Can I be an advocate to help you get the resources you need?