CISA Insights: Preparing for and Mitigating Foreign Influence Operations Targeting Critical Infrastructure

Executive Summary

Malicious actors use influence operations, including tactics like misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation (MDM), to shape public opinion, undermine trust, amplify division, and sow discord. Foreign actors engage in these actions to bias the development of policy and undermine the security of the U.S. and our allies, disrupt markets, and foment unrest. This CISA Insights product is intended to ensure that critical infrastructure owners and operators are aware of the risks of influence operations leveraging social media and online platforms.

Report

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https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/cisa_insight_mitigating_foreign_influence_508.pdf

Impact to HPH Sector

CISA encourages leaders at every organization to take proactive steps to assess their risks from information manipulation, increase resilience, and mitigate the impact of potential foreign influence operations. Recommended actions include:

- **Assess the Information Environment**
  - Evaluate the precedent for MDM narratives targeting your sector
- **Identify Vulnerabilities**
  - Identify potential vulnerabilities that could be exploited by MDM
- **Fortify Communication Channels**
  - Engage your stakeholders to establish clear communication channels for info sharing
- **Engage in Proactive Communication**
  - Coordinate with other organizations in your sector to amplify and reinforce messaging
- **Develop an Incident Response (IR) Plan**
  - Designate an individual to oversee the MDM IR process and associated crisis comms

U.S. organizations should report incidents immediately to the FBI at a local FBI Field Office, CISA at us-cert.cisa.gov/report, or the U.S. Secret Service at a U.S. Secret Service Field Office.

References

Links to several additional references and resources can be found in the above referenced report.

Contact Information

If you have any additional questions, please contact us at HC3@hhs.gov.

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