Not All Threats Are External

When we hear mention of a cyberthreat, we tend to look outside our organization. Unfortunately, cyberthreats can come from anywhere. When the threat is internal, we refer to that as an **insider threat**. Insiders are given access to a company's network, systems, or data, they are typically your employees. A malicious insider abuses the authority and trust they have been given.

People commit malicious acts for a variety of reasons — political statements, revenge, greed, or desperation. These attacks kay result in IT sabotage, theft of intellectual property or fraud. These acts can cause serious repercussions for the organization and its employees.

If You See Something, Say Something

Telecommuting has added its own complexities in spotting and defeating insider threats. The most important defense is the observational capabilities of your co-workers. Behavior often offers clues that a malicious insider threat event is happening, or about to happen. Knowing the warning signs will help you identify potential threats. Look for behaviors that are out of the ordinary, such as:

- Asking for data or access to data that they don't need for their job
- Working odd hours, especially when they didn't before
- Sudden mood changes
- Downloading, printing, or copying large amounts of data

What Can You Do?

Telecommuting makes this harder to spot but it is not impossible. Never assume that changes in behavior of because of COVID-19. Here is what you can do to help:

- Never share your user credentials, ID badges, or other personal security items. These could give a malicious insider access to information or assets to which they normally have no right. If you do share them and something does happen, an audit will trace back to you, not the perpetrator!
- Report suspicious behavior. Ask you supervisor how you should report suspected insider threats now. This way you will be prepared if you need to do so. When in doubt, report it to HR. Remember — **if you see something, say something!**

Cyberthreats don't always come from the outside. Good cybersecurity behaviors require you to be vigilant for attacks from all areas, including within. Remember, **security is everyone's responsibility!**

#BeCyberSmart this #CybersecurityAwarenessMonth