

Kevin Ford – Chief Information Security Officer NDIT 3/10/2021



The State and Local Cyber Problem

- State and local governments have the same problems
- We aren't addressing our problems in coordinated way



"States and localities are stronger when they share awareness and resources, thereby fostering resilience beyond any individual legal jurisdiction." - DHS

National Adoption of Mutual Aid

"The most consequential cyber challenges require resources beyond the capacity of the federal government or that of a single state."

"Just as state and regional incidents in the physical world are dealt with by FEMA, states, and private surge arrangements for mutual aid so too should cyber challenges be handled effectively through a spectrum of arrangements."



From: HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL FINAL REPORT OF THE STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL AND TERRITORIAL CYBERSECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE, available https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/sltt final report signed.pdf

Memorandums of Understanding for Cybersecurity Information Sharing



What are they targeting?



Who are they?



How do they act?



How do we beat them?

Personal Data is not Shared

Mutual Aid Agreements



Access to varied toolsets and capabilities



Swarming to most acute site of an attack before it spreads



Coordination of actions to beat attackers, not just repel them



Promotes overall network health by exposing it to fewer attacks from partners

Future Opportunities



COVID relief grants tied to Cyber Mutual Aid



DHS arranged bulk purchase vehicles for commonly used cyber essentials



Multiple bills and draft bills include cybersecurity funds for mutual aid



Multistate purchasing for bulk tools

North Dakota Tribal Governments



Appendix

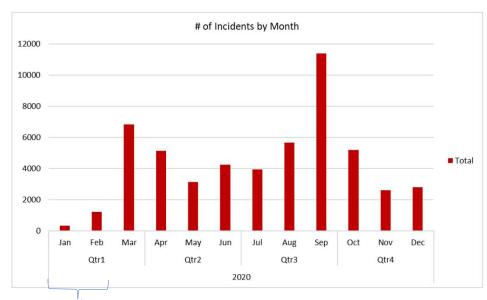
External Threats



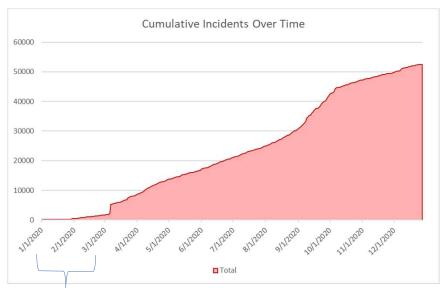
North Dakota receives over 177 Million detected attacks per month¹ from external threats including:

- Nation States,
- Corporate Espionage, and
- Organized Crime Syndicates.

52,415 Cyber Incidents (March 2020 to Nov 2020)



Most tools were not integrated, count is artificially low



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