



# Security Risk Analysis

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Step 1 of an Effective Cybersecurity Program

# Our Speaker


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# Objectives

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- ❑ Illustrate the importance of an accurate and thorough Security Risk Analysis and why it is essential to an Effective Cybersecurity Program
  - ❑ Recognize systems and devices that create, receive, transmit or store ePHI
  - ❑ Identify system vulnerabilities and the threats that could exploit them
  - ❑ Develop risk management strategies to protect ePHI from cyberattacks as well as other physical and environmental threats

# Cyber Crime on the Rise

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## Intermountain Says Patients' PHI Exposed in Elekta Health Data Breach

Intermountain Healthcare was impacted by the Elekta health data breach.



*comparitech*

**Ransomware attacks on US healthcare organizations cost \$20.8bn in 2020**



## Cyberattack Exposes Protected Health Information of 43K New Yorkers

A cyberattack exposed the PHI of over 43,000 New Yorkers.

# Cybersecurity Begins with an SRA

# HIPAA Security Rule

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Introduced the Security Risk Analysis to healthcare

Many Covered Entities didn't think they had to do it

2005  
Security Rule

Became more of a priority in 2009 with Meaningful Use

Covered entities still struggle to get it right

# Health Plan Breach Affecting Over 9.3 Million

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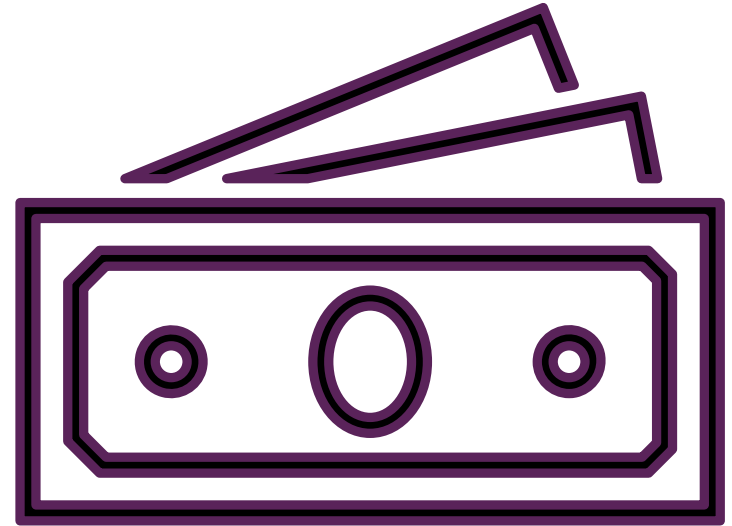
“Hacking continues to be the greatest threat to the privacy and security of individuals’ health information. In this case, a health plan did not stop hackers from roaming inside its health record system undetected for over a year which endangered the privacy of millions of its beneficiaries...Health care entities need to step up their game to protect the privacy of people’s health information from this growing threat.”

Roger Severino, Previous OCR Director  
OCR News Release, January 15, 2021

# Settlements & Civil Monetary Penalties (CMP)

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**\$130,980,482**

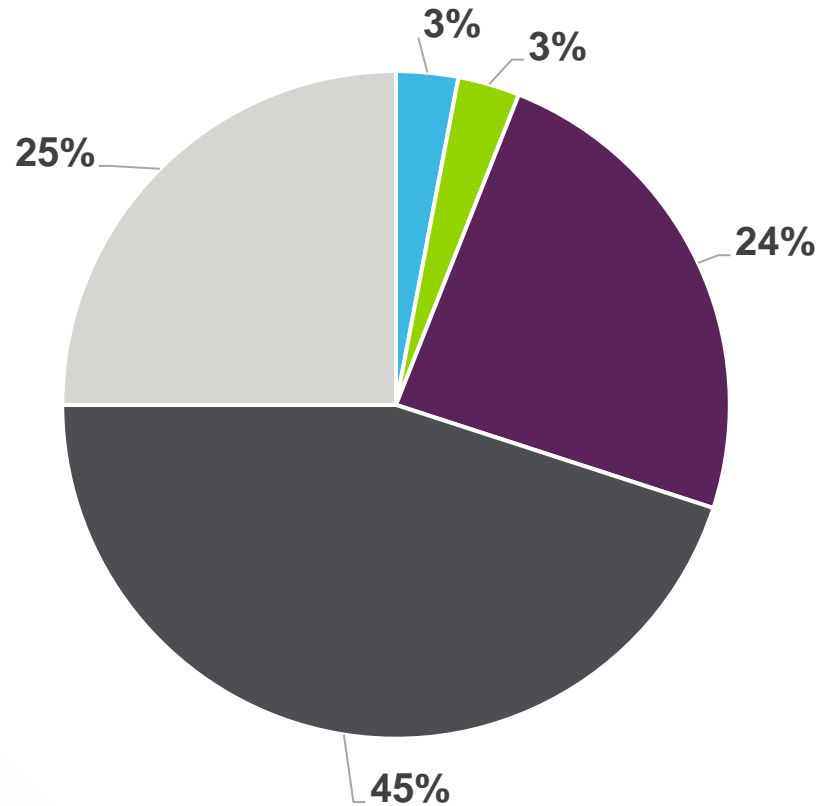


The lack of an accurate and thorough SRA has consistently been sighted in investigations conducted by the OCR and resulting in settlements or CMPs.



# OCR Audit Results

Risk Management, Covered Entities



■ In Compliance

■ Substantially Meets Criteria

■ Minimally Addresses Requirements

■ Negligible Efforts to Comply

■ No Serious Attempt to Comply

# OCR Audit Results

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## Minimally addressed

- Entity has made attempts to comply, but implementation is inadequate, or efforts indicate misunderstanding of requirements

## Negligible efforts

- Policies and procedures are copied directly from an association template, evidence of training poorly documented and generic



## No serious attempt to comply

- No evidence of a serious attempt to comply with the Rules

# OCR Audit Results – Security Risk Analysis

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Entities generally failed to:

Identify	Develop	Conduct	Consider	Review
Identify and assess the risks to all ePHI in their possession	Develop and implement policies and procedures for conducting a risk analysis	Conduct risk analyses consistent with policies and procedures	Identify threats and vulnerabilities, to consider their potential likelihoods and impacts, and to rate the risk to ePHI	Review and periodically update a risk analysis in response to changes in the environment and/or operations, security incidents, or occurrence of a significant event

# SRA Misconceptions

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It's a checklist.



It's a one and done.



My EHR vendor does this for me.



If I don't participate in MIPS, I don't have to do it.

# An Accurate & Thorough Security Risk Analysis

# Security Risk Analysis

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An assessment of the potential risks and vulnerabilities to the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of ALL electronic PHI created, received, maintained, or transmitted

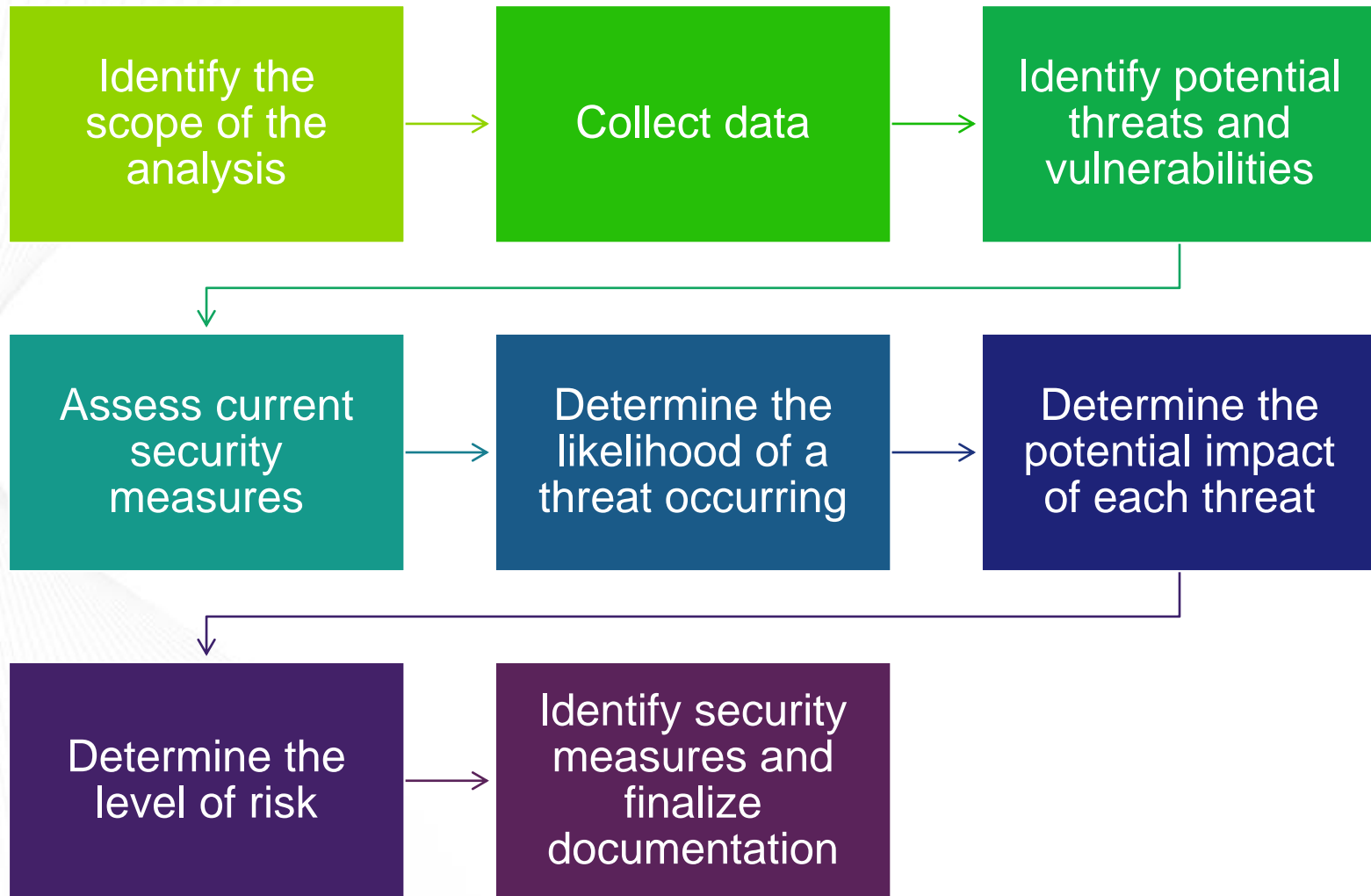


Scalable, but must be enterprise-wide



No required methodology, but guidance is provided

# Steps of a Security Risk Analysis



# Scope

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ALL electronic PHI  
created, received,  
maintained, or  
transmitted

Must be  
documented as a  
part of the SRA

Will vary based on  
size/complexity of  
organization

May require review  
of multiple locations  
and processes for  
use and disclosure



# Collect Data

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## Interview

Conduct interviews of all workforce members



## Identify

Conduct on-site reviews to identify ePHI



## Review

Review past and existing projects that involved ePHI



## Develop

Develop an inventory of all hardware, software, portable media, and other devices that are used to create, receive, maintain, or transmit ePHI

# Commonly Overlooked ePHI

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VoIP telephone  
systems



Email  
applications



Medical  
equipment



Digital faxing  
services



Cloud storage



Personal  
devices

# Identify Threats and Vulnerabilities

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## Threat

- Potential for a specific vulnerability to be triggered or exploited
  - Natural
  - Human
  - Environmental

## Vulnerability

- Flaw or weakness in systems or processes

# Common Threats

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Hacking

System errors



Misuse

Theft



Power loss

Malware



Social engineering

Natural events



# Identifying Vulnerabilities

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Previous risk analysis

Audit reports

Assessing information systems

- Vulnerability scans
- Penetration testing

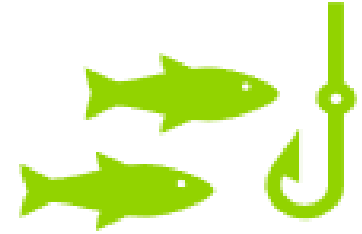
Vulnerability lists and advisories

- [HHS Cybersecurity Updates](#)
- [FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center \(IC3\)](#)

# Threats to the Healthcare Industry

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- Email phishing
- Ransomware
- Loss or theft of equipment or data
- Insider, accidental or intentional data loss
- Attacks against connected medical devices



[Health Industry Cybersecurity Practices: Managing Threats and Protecting Patients](#)

# Vulnerabilities

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Lack of awareness training

Lack of IT resource for managing suspicious emails

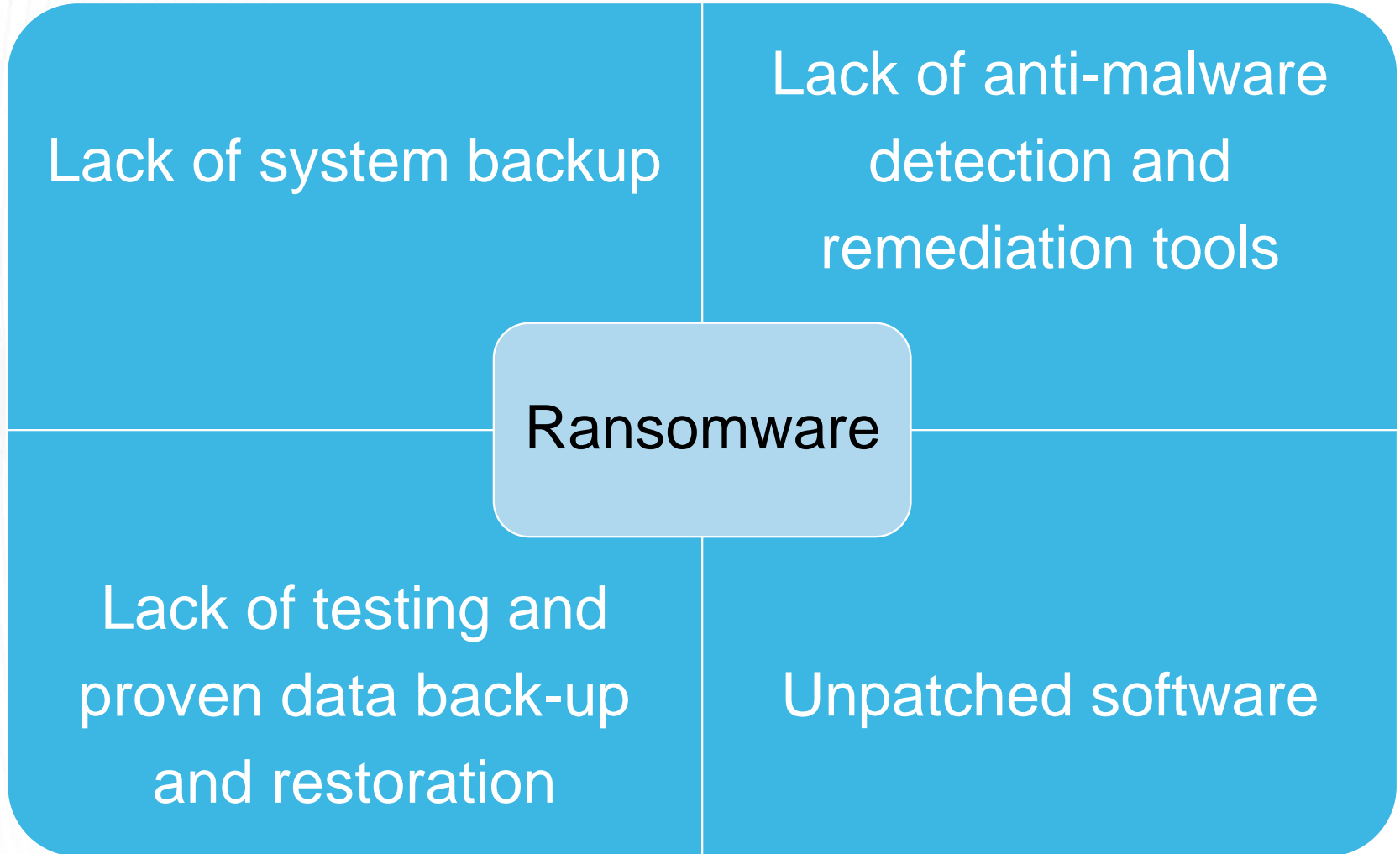
Phishing

Lack of software to scan emails for malicious content

Lack of sender domain and validation tools

# Vulnerabilities

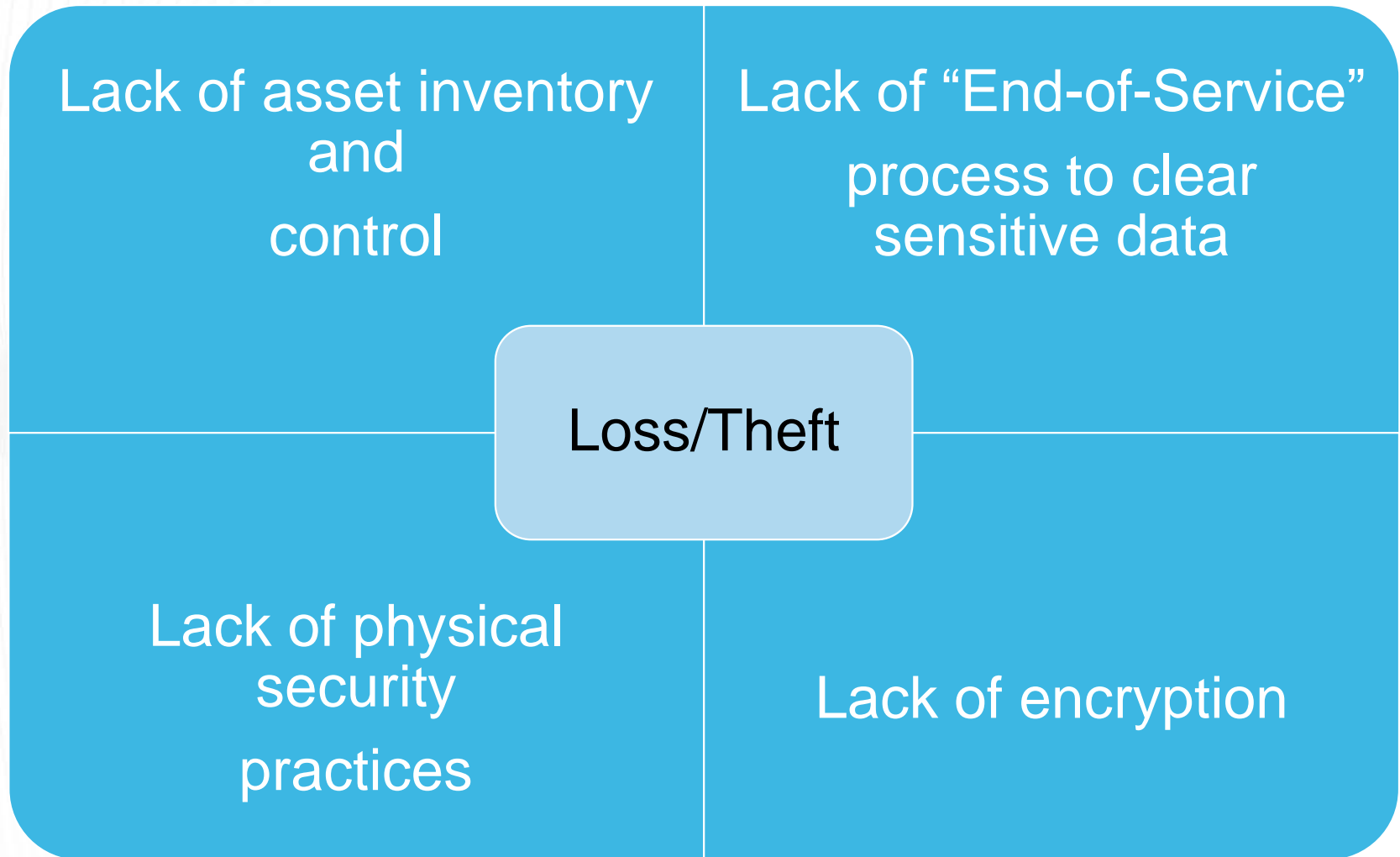
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# Vulnerabilities

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# Assess Current Security Measures

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## Technical

- Access controls
- Automatic logoff
- Encryption



## Non-technical

- Policies and procedures
- Standards and guidelines
- Physical security measures



Identify security measures  
required by the Security Rule

# Security Standards

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## Administrative safeguards

- Office policies and procedures, staff training, and other measures to carry out security requirements

## Physical safeguards

- Limiting access to physical areas where electronic information is stored

## Technical safeguards

- Authentication, transmission and other issues that arise when authorized personnel access PHI via computer or other electronic device

# Determine Likelihood of Threats

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## Low

- Unlikely or rarely ever to occur

## Medium

- Could potentially occur

## High

- Most likely occur

# Determine Potential Impact

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- Most common outcomes that could impact the **confidentiality, availability and integrity** of ePHI:
  - Unauthorized access or disclosure
  - Permanent loss or corruption
  - Temporary loss or unavailability
  - Loss of physical assets



# Impact Severity Levels

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## Low

- Little or no impact

## Medium

- Considerable system outage, compromise of large amount of information affecting many

## High

- Extended outage, permanent loss or damage, triggering business continuity procedures, complete compromise of information

# Determine Level of Risk

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Risk Levels			
Impact Severity	Likelihood of Occurrence		
	Low	Medium	High
Low	Low	Low	Low
Medium	Low	Medium	Medium
High	Low	Medium	High

# Identify Security Measures & Finalize Documentation



Identify actions that can reduce risk to a reasonable and appropriate level



**Important considerations**

Required regulatory security measures  
Effectiveness of security measure  
Existing policies and procedures



All steps must be documented and retained for six years



# Risk Management

# Risk Management Plan

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## Develop and implement a risk management plan

- Evaluate and prioritize actions identified in risk analysis
- Implementation will vary by organization
- Cost can be considered, but cannot be the only factor

## Documentation

- Required resources
- Assigned responsibilities
- Start and completion dates

# Implement Security Measures

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Begin implementation



Document scope, timeline, and budget



Consider internal and external resources/vendors



Covered entity is ultimately responsible, even if task is outsourced

# Utilize Best Practices

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## [HR 7898](#)

An Act to amend the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to consider certain recognized security practices of covered entities and business associates when making certain determinations, and for other purposes.

- [NIST Cybersecurity Framework](#)
- [CSA of 2015 Section 405\(d\)](#)

# Ongoing Process

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- Security measures must be reviewed and modified as needed
- No specified timeline by Security Rule
- Other programs may require regular assessment
- Review and update in response to changes in the environment
  - Addition of new technology
  - New business operations
  - Key staff turnover
  - Existing security measures become less effective



# Resources

# 5 Steps to an Effective Cybersecurity Program



# SVMIC Upcoming Webinars & Resources

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## [Using Technology to Secure Your System](#)

Friday, August 20, 2021

12:00 PM CST

## [Planning for the Worst - Security Incident Response](#)

Friday, September 10, 2021

12:00 PM CST

## [SVMIC Cybersecurity Resources](#)





# Additional Resources

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[HHS Security Rule  
Guidance Materials](#)



[HealthIT.gov Security  
Risk Assessment Tool](#)



[HealthIT.gov Security  
Risk Assessment  
Videos](#)

# Thank you!

Call 800-342-2239 and ask for **Medical Practice Services** for more information or questions about the content covered in this presentation.

You may also email [Contact@svmic.com](mailto:Contact@svmic.com).



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