



# Cyber Hygiene: Why the Fundamentals Matter

Matthew Butkovic

Matt Trevors

Randall Trzeciak

CERT Division of the Software Engineering Institute

Cyber Risk and Resilience Directorate

Software Engineering Institute  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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# Contact Information

## Matthew Butkovic

Director – Cyber Risk & Resilience Directorate

CERT Faculty – Heinz College MS Information Security, Policy & Management

[mjb101@cert.org](mailto:mjb101@cert.org)

## Matthew Trevors

Technical Manager – Cyber Risk & Resilience Directorate; Cybersecurity Assurance Team

[mtrevors@cert.org](mailto:mtrevors@cert.org)

## Randall Trzeciak

Director – National Insider Threat Center

Program Director – Heinz College MS Information Security, Policy & Management

[rft@cert.org](mailto:rft@cert.org)



[www.sei.cmu.edu](http://www.sei.cmu.edu)

[www.heinz.cmu.edu](http://www.heinz.cmu.edu)



# Definition

## “Definition of Cyber Hygiene

Cyber hygiene is a reference to the [practices and steps](#) that users of computers and other devices take to maintain system health and improve online security. These practices are often part of a routine to ensure the safety of identity and other details that could be stolen or corrupted. Much like physical hygiene, cyber hygiene is regularly conducted to ward off natural deterioration and common threats.”

<https://digitalguardian.com/blog/what-cyber-hygiene-definition-cyber-hygiene-benefits-best-practices-and-more>

# Hygiene as a Minimum Baseline



## CIS Controls™



### Basic

- 1 Inventory and Control of Hardware Assets
- 2 Inventory and Control of Software Assets
- 3 Continuous Vulnerability Management
- 4 Controlled Use of Administrative Privileges
- 5 Secure Configuration for Hardware and Software on Mobile Devices, Laptops, Workstations and Servers
- 6 Maintenance, Monitoring and Analysis of Audit Logs

### Foundational

- 7 Email and Web Browser Protections
- 8 Malware Defenses
- 9 Limitation and Control of Network Ports, Protocols, and Services
- 10 Data Recovery Capabilities
- 11 Secure Configuration for Network Devices, such as Firewalls, Routers and Switches
- 12 Boundary Defense
- 13 Data Protection
- 14 Controlled Access Based on the Need to Know
- 15 Wireless Access Control
- 16 Account Monitoring and Control

### Organizational

- 17 Implement a Security Awareness and Training Program
- 18 Application Software Security
- 19 Incident Response and Management
- 20 Penetration Tests and Red Team Exercises

## TOP 5 CIS CONTROLS

**CSC 1:** Inventory of Authorized and Unauthorized Devices.

**CSC 2:** Inventory of Authorized and Unauthorized Software.

**CSC 3:** Secure Configurations for Hardware and Software on Mobile Devices, Laptops, Workstations and Servers.

**CSC 4:** Continuous Vulnerability Assessment and Remediation.

**CSC 5:** Controlled Use of Administrative Privileges.



# Hygiene Requires Institutionalization

## Washing compliance

	Pre-campaign	Nov 2006	Post-campaign
Nurses	55%	66%	65%
Doctors	30%	58%	39%
Allied health	40%	55%	48%

The study, by researchers at the University of NSW and the Clinical Excellence Commission, found that before the campaign, the hand hygiene compliance rate was only 30 per cent for doctors. It improved to 58 per cent by November, 2006, at the peak of the campaign, but dropped again to 39 per cent in July last year.

Source: <https://www.smh.com.au/national/in-the-washup-doctors-forget-about-hygiene-20091018-h303.html>



# Operational Resilience Defined

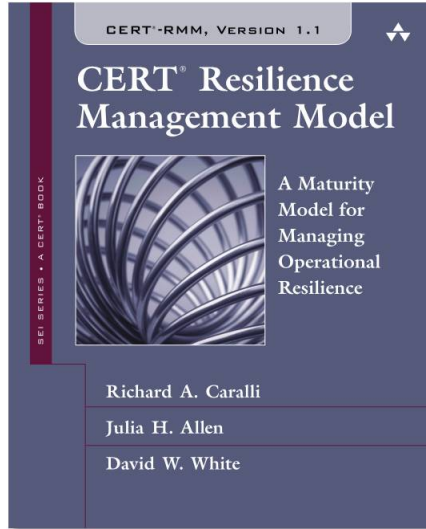
**Resilience:** The physical property of a material when it can return to its original shape or position after deformation that does not exceed its elastic limit  
*[wordnet.princeton.edu]*



**Operational resilience:** The *emergent* property of an *organization* that can *continue to carry out its mission* after *disruption* that *does not exceed* its *operational* limit[CERT-RMM]



# CERT Resilience Management Model



Framework for managing and improving operational resilience

<http://www.cert.org/resilience/>

***“...an extensive super-set of the things an organization could do to be more resilient.”***

- CERT-RMM adopter



# Core Principle and Focus of CERT-RMM

## Premise at the core of CERT-RMM

The ability of the organization to sustain operations in the face of operational risk is highly influenced by the quality of the process used to ensure assets remain protected and sustained.

## Focus of CERT-RMM

Transforming some (emergent) quality of the organization, called operational resilience, focuses on the processes or activities that support operational resilience management system.

# 26 Process Areas in 4 Categories

## Engineering

**ADM** Asset Definition and Management

**CTRL** Controls Management

**RRD** Resilience Requirements Development

**RRM** Resilience Requirements Management

**RTSE** Resilient Technical Solution Engineering

**SC** Service Continuity

## Enterprise Management

**COMM** Communications

**COMP** Compliance

**EF** Enterprise Focus

**FRM** Financial Resource Management

**HRM** Human Resource Management

**OTA** Organizational Training and Awareness

**RISK** Risk Management

## Operations

**AM** Access Management

**EC** Environmental Control

**EXD** External Dependencies Management

**ID** Identity Management

**IMC** Incident Management and Control

**KIM** Knowledge and Information  
Management

**PM** People Management

**TM** Technology Management

**VAR** Vulnerability Analysis and Resolution

## Process Management

**MA** Measurement and Analysis

**MON** Monitoring

**OPD** Organizational Process Definition

**OPF** Organizational Process Focus

# CERT-RMM Applications and Derivatives



# Cyber Hygiene and RMM

- Minimum expected baseline of expected capabilities
- Contained within the Goals and Practices of RMM v1.2
- Aligned with other standards of practice (e.g., CIS Top 20, and NIST CSF)
- A total of 11 Goals and 43 Practices
- Ecosystem of related processes
- Measures the maturity (institutionalization) of the practices



# Cyber Hygiene – A Baseline Set of Practices

*Cybersecurity hygiene* are practices that are used to manage the most common and pervasive cybersecurity risks faced by organizations today.

1. Identify and prioritize key organizational services, products and their supporting assets.
2. Identify, prioritize, and respond to risks to the organization's key services and products.
3. Establish an incident response plan.
4. Conduct cybersecurity education and awareness activities.
5. Establish network security and monitoring.
6. Control access based on least privilege and maintain the user access accounts.
7. Manage technology changes and use standardized secure configurations.
8. Implement controls to protect and recover data.
9. Prevent and monitor malware exposures.
10. Manage cyber risks associated with suppliers and external dependencies.
11. Perform cyber threat and vulnerability monitoring and remediation.

Sources:

- Center for Internet Security (CIS) aka SANS 20 – 20 Critical Security Controls
- Cybersecurity Framework – National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
- Resilience Management Model – Carnegie Mellon University, Software Engineering Institute (SEI)
- UK Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) – 10 Steps to Cybersecurity
- European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) – Whitepaper and Strategy
- InfoSec Institute (Australia) – The Importance of Cyber Hygiene in Cyberspace

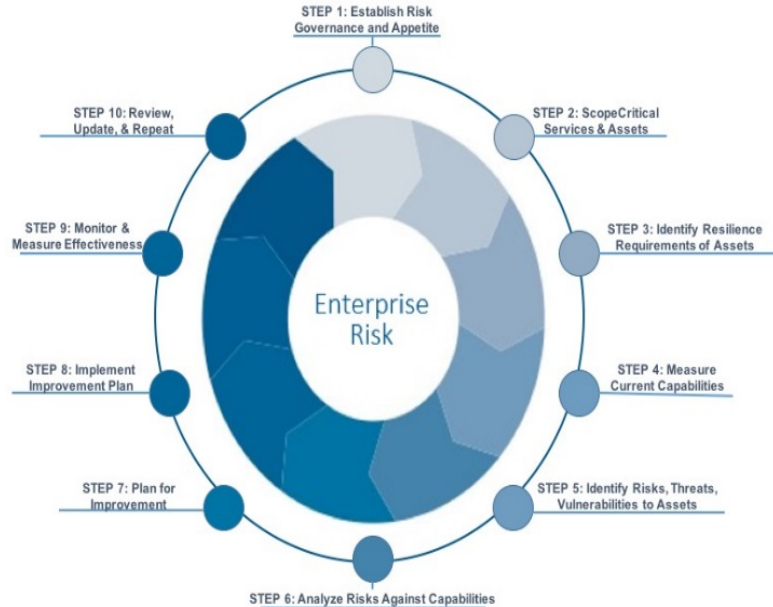
# Cyber Hygiene Goal-1



## Hygiene 1 – Identify and Prioritize Key Organizational Services, Products, and Their Supporting Assets

- Establish Organizational Services (EF:SG1.SP3)
  - Business Services
  - Check your mission statement
- Inventory Assets (ADM:SG1.SP1)
  - People
  - Technology
  - Information
  - Facilities

# Cyber Hygiene Goal-2



## Hygiene 2 – Identify, Prioritize, and Respond to Risks to the Organization’s Key Services and Products

- Establish Risk Measurement Criteria (RISK:SG2.SP2)
  - Physical Safety
  - Regulatory
  - Customer Satisfaction
  - Brand Damage
  - Etc.
- Identify Service-Level Risks (RISK:SG3.SP2)
- Evaluate Risks (RISK SG4.SP1)
- Develop Risk Disposition Strategy (RISK:SG4.SP3)
- Identify and Assess Risks Due to External Dependencies (EXD:SG2.SP1)
  - Their vulnerabilities are **YOUR** vulnerabilities



# Cyber Hygiene Goal-3



- Hygiene 3 – Establish an Incident Response Plan
  - Plan for Incident Management (IMC:SG1.SP1)
  - NIST 800-61
    - Prepare
    - Detection & Analysis
    - Containment, Eradication, & Recovery
    - Post Incident Activity

# Cyber Hygiene Goal-4



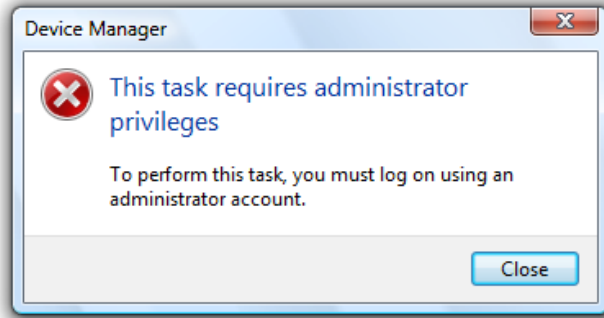
- Hygiene 4 – Conduct Cybersecurity Education and Awareness Activities
  - Establish Awareness Needs (OTA:SG1.SP1)
  - Perform Awareness Activities (OTA:SG2.SP1)
  - Establish Training Needs (OTA:SG3.SP1)
  - Deliver Training (OTA:SG4.SP1)

# Cyber Hygiene Goal-5



- Hygiene 5 – Establish Network Security and Monitoring
  - Discover Vulnerabilities (VAR:SG2.SP2)
  - Analyze Vulnerabilities (VAR:SG2.SP3)
  - Perform Configuration Management (TM:SG4.SP2)
  - Perform Release Management (TM:SG4.SP4)
  - Establish Monitoring Requirements (MON:SG1.SP3)
  - Establish Collection Standards and Guidelines (MON:SG2.SP2)
  - Collect and Record Information (MON:SG2.SP3)

# Cyber Hygiene Goal-6



- Hygiene 6 – Control Access Based on Least Privilege and Maintain the User Access Accounts
  - Enable Access (AM:SG1.SP1)
  - Periodically Review and Maintain Access Privileges (AM:SG1.SP3)
  - Categorize Information Assets (KIM:SG1.SP2)
  - Control Access to Information Assets (KIM:SG4.SP2)

# Cyber Hygiene Goal-7



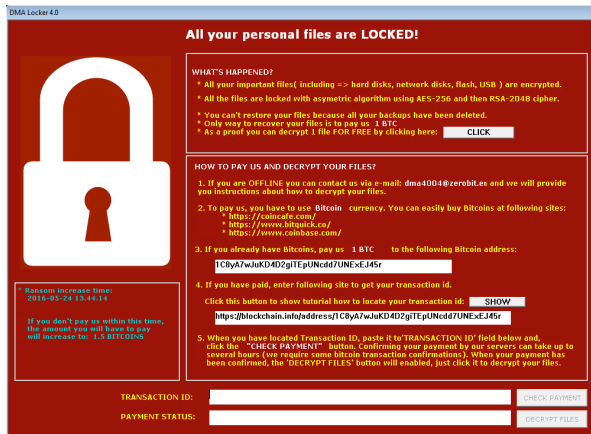
- Hygiene 7 – Manage Technology Changes and Use Standardized Secure Configurations
  - Perform Configuration Management (TM:SG4.SP2)
  - Perform Change Control and Management (TM:SG4.SP3)
  - Perform Release Management (TM:SG4.SP4)

# Cyber Hygiene Goal-8



- Hygiene 8 – Implement Controls to Protect and Recover Data
  - Develop and Document Service Continuity Plans (SC:SG3.SP2)
  - Develop Testing Program and Standards (SC:SG5.SP1)
  - Exercise Plans (SC:SG5.SP3)
  - Measure the Effectiveness of the Plans in Operation (SC:SG6.SP2)
  - Control Access to Information Assets (KIM:SG4.SP2)
  - Control Modification of Information Assets (KIM:SG5.SP1)
  - Perform Information Duplication and Retention (KIM:SG6.SP1)
  - Perform Planning to Sustain Technology Assets (TM:SG5.SP1)
  - Manage Technology Asset Maintenance (TM:SG5.SP2)

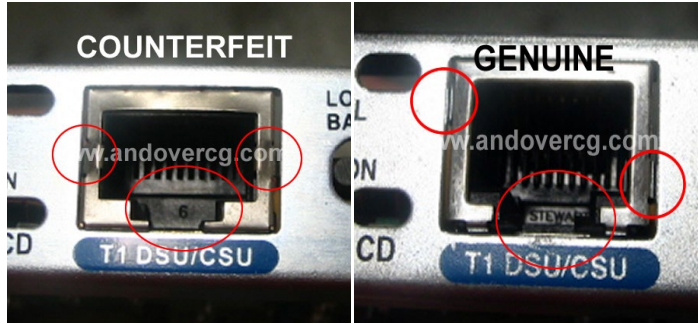
# Cyber Hygiene Goal-9



- Hygiene 9 – Prevent and Monitor Malware Exposures
- Collect, Document, and Preserve Event Evidence (IMC:SG2.SP3)
- Analyze and Triage Events (IMC:SG2.SP4)
- Establish and Implement Controls (TM:SG2.SP2)
- Establish Monitoring Requirements (MON:SG1.SP3)
- Establish Collection Standards and Guidelines (MON:SG2.SP2)



# Cyber Hygiene Goal-10



- Hygiene 10 – Manage Cyber Risks Associated with Suppliers and External Dependencies
  - Identify External Dependencies (EXD:SG1.SP1)
  - Prioritize External Dependencies (EXD:SG1.SP2)
  - Establish Resilience Specifications for External Dependencies (EXD:SG3.SP2)
  - Monitor External Entity Performance (EXD:SG4.SP1)

# Cyber Hygiene Goal-11



- Hygiene 11 – Perform Cyber Threat and Vulnerability Monitoring and Remediation
  - Identify Sources of Vulnerability Information (VAR:SG2.SP1)
  - Discover Vulnerabilities (VAR:SG2.SP2)
  - Analyze Vulnerabilities (VAR:SG2.SP3)
  - Manage Exposure to Vulnerabilities (VAR:SG3.SP1)

# Questions



# Conquered Cyber Hygiene, What Next?

Review the SEI plan for improvement guide

Assess your policies, plans, processes, and procedures through a lightweight tool such as the Cyber Resilience Assessment

Determine your greatest needs and map out a plan to improve

- Consider using a maturity model for guidance
  - Progressing your capabilities (crawl -> walk -> jog -> run -> sprint)
  - Institutionalize your processes (write down what you do, do what you wrote down. Define policies, assign resources, etc.)

# Resources

Software Engineering Institute Website:

<https://www.sei.cmu.edu/>

CERT Resilience Management Model

<https://resources.sei.cmu.edu/library/asset-view.cfm?assetid=508084>

Cyber Risk and Resilience Blog:

<https://insights.sei.cmu.edu/>

SEI Training

<https://www.sei.cmu.edu/education-outreach/courses/index.cfm>