



Thinking outside the (Cy)BOX: A workshop for Local Authorities

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Aims of the project

CyBOK



- Local Authorities (LAs) and Education teams hold significant amounts of data on individuals, and provide important community services for their constituents;
- Resources are often very tight for these entities, meaning that investments into security measures can be challenging, and need to be very targeted;
- The project aimed to:
 - establish the existing level of knowledge of CyBOK in local authorities
 - Introduce a selection of Knowledge Areas (KAs) to a number of local authorities
 - Create resources to enable other organisations to run similar events
- Target audience: IT staff LAs in Wales; Digital Leads for Education within the LA areas

Overview

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- Four KAs were identified as being the most relevant to LA operations:
 - Human Factors
 - Adversarial Behaviours
 - Malware and Attack Technologies
 - Security Operations and Incident Management
- Two workshops were delivered to explore these KAs, one in person, and one online;
- Surveys were issued prior to the workshops to establish existing knowledge of CyBOK;
- Surveys were issued after the workshops to establish understanding of CyBOK and how it may be useful to LAs.

Workshops

CyBOK



- Workshops took the format of a scenario-based activity, delivered in four stages;
- Each stage focused on a different KA:
 - A disgruntled employee leaves a USB marked ‘redundancies’ in a staff room
 - A new employee, concerned about his job, plugs the USB into his machine
 - The machine is infected with ransomware
 - More machines become infected, and an incident is triggered
- After each stage was presented, the scenario was discussed, linking it to the relevant KA, using information from the KA to help inform and educate attendees.

Results

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- Meetings with key stakeholders took place at the start of the project;
- 12 individuals from 5 different organisations took part in the workshops;
- Most attendees were completely unaware of CyBOK at the start;
- Attendees benefitted from discussing the scenarios with individuals from other LAs;
- Some LAs are more advanced than others in their security posture;
- The Human Factors KA was of great interest, with many attendees saying this is an area that they believe is under appreciated in their organisation;
- There were excellent discussions around mitigations and best practice;
- All attendees said CyBOK would be useful to them;
- Some attendees suggested linking CyBOK to ISO27001 and other frameworks.

Key takeaway

Local Authority staff found the information within CyBOK to be very useful, and valued having it presented in an interactive and focused way

CyBOK

