

12-Month Cyber Readiness Framework

A year-round rhythm for continuous improvement

Cybersecurity isn't a "once-a-year" initiative—it's an ongoing rhythm of attention and improvement. This framework isn't meant to say "do this only in March" or "wait until June."

Instead, it highlights which area of your program deserves extra focus each month, ensuring that nothing important slips through the cracks. Think of it as a cyber hygiene calendar—a practical way to keep every key discipline visible and accountable.

If your team already performs some of these checks more often, you're ahead of the curve.

Tips for Making It Stick

- Assign an **owner** for each area and review progress quarterly.
- Add focus reminders to your team calendar or Smartsheet.
- Celebrate small wins—security is everyone's job.
- Use this framework to engage non-technical teams in the "why" behind security.

Cybersecurity isn't a checklist—it's a culture.

This framework gives your team a clear, repeatable way to stay proactive all year long.

If you'd like guidance implementing any of these focus areas—or want to schedule a year-end tabletop or DR validation—NetCov's security and advisory teams are ready to help.

Contact us: netcov.com/contact

Because at NetCov, every month is Cybersecurity Month.



12-Month Cyber Readiness Framework

Month (Focus Cycle)	Primary Area	Continuous Goal
January	Backup & Disaster Recovery Validation	Verify that backups restore correctly and recovery objectives still meet business needs.
February	Patch & Update Audit	Maintain full visibility across assets and confirm all OS, firmware, and app updates are current.
March	Access & Identity Review	Enforce least-privilege principles and MFA. Remove or adjust inactive accounts.
April	Employee Awareness Refresh	Reinforce culture, not compliance—deliver short, high-frequency training and celebrate staff vigilance.
May	Vendor & Partner Risk Review	Ensure third-party partners remain aligned with your standards and security clauses are current.
June	Incident Response Tabletop Exercise	Test your playbook with IT and leadership; identify communication or decision-making gaps.
July	Cloud Cost & Security Scan	Review IAM roles, unused services, and storage configurations to balance cost and security.
August	Endpoint & Hardware Lifecycle Review	Retire, replace, or reimage outdated devices; confirm encryption and antivirus enforcement.
September	Policy & Compliance Audit	Update acceptable-use, password, and MFA policies. Check alignment with current frameworks.
October	Awareness & Recognition Month	Host team events, share wins, and spotlight security champions.
November	Metrics & Reporting Update	Refresh dashboards and KPIs; confirm readiness for board and audit reports.
December	Year-End Planning & Budget Alignment	Use lessons learned to plan next year's improvements and Q1 quick-win projects.

