

WHEREAS; cybersecurity refers to the process of protecting networks, devices, and data from unauthorized access or criminal use, and to the practice of ensuring confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information in matters of communication, entertainment, travel, shopping, medicine, finance, and more; and

WHEREAS; critical infrastructure depends on technology and electronic information systems to support financial services, energy, commerce, telecommunications, transportation, utilities, healthcare, emergency response, and more; and

WHEREAS; education and awareness of best cybersecurity practices are critical for any individual or organization that is connected to the internet, including businesses, government, schools, and at-home users; and

WHEREAS; all Wisconsinites are reminded of the importance of creating strong passwords, protecting their accounts with multi-factor authentication, keeping software updated, and using anti-virus programs; and

WHEREAS; maintaining cybersecurity is a responsibility shared by all, and awareness of essential personal and organizational cyber safety practices will improve the security of Wisconsin's consumers, communities, and critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS; cyber threats are getting faster and smarter, and artificial intelligence is accelerating the rate at which cybercriminals can take advantage of computer software and system weaknesses, which can disrupt operations and endanger sensitive data; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsinites can apply cybersecurity principles to their everyday use of technology by protecting themselves and their organizations against phishing and scam attempts, knowing the procedure to follow when individual or organizational cybersecurity is breached, and seeking help from professional resources when in need; and

WHEREAS; the annual Governor’s Cybersecurity Summit unites Wisconsin public and private leaders to discuss evolving digital threats through real-world solutions and cross-sector collaboration; and

WHEREAS; for more than 20 years, Cybersecurity Awareness Month has been observed on the national level to inspire, engage, and inform members of the public about the opportunities available within the area of cybersecurity and highlight how cybersecurity involves technical experts as well as innovators, communicators, educators, leaders, analysts, designers, problem-solvers, and more; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Administration and Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, in encouraging Wisconsinites to protect their identity, data, and devices while using the internet, and reaffirms its commitments to providing the resources and information necessary to stay safe online and connect with confidence;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim October 2026 as

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 30th day of September 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State