

# Prioritizing Best Practices for the Level 1 maturity

No one wants to suffer a cybersecurity incident. The intent to protect networks is universal, but resource limitations leave many organizations facing perhaps the most difficult question in all of cybersecurity: What do I do next?

This section prioritizes best practices by mapping each maturity level to the priority best practices that should be implemented by an election office at that maturity level.

## Level 1 Maturity

If you are at the Level 1 maturity, your first goal should be to commit to incrementally improving your maturity. This is about setting simple goals. For example, complete one simple task a week, implement one best practice a month, and set aside a minimum set of resources dedicated to cybersecurity every quarter. Whatever helps you make progress.



## Level 1 Maturity Baseline Priorities

If you are at the Level 1 maturity, we recommend starting with these to establish a baseline of cyber hygiene. This is the starting point to building yourself up to a [defense-in-depth](#) posture.

### Actions

1. Download and complete the [worksheets](#) for the Level 1 maturity baseline. There are ten worksheets, all in one downloadable file.
  - o Together, these fulfill **all** of the Level 1 baseline priorities.
  - o The left column in the table is the name of a Level 1 maturity worksheet described [here](#). On that page you can download one file with all ten worksheets.
  - o The right column gives the relevant best practice actions fulfilled by the worksheet(s).

Worksheet	Actions Fulfilled by the Worksheet
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hardware Inventory</li> <li>• Software Inventory</li> <li>• Data Inventory</li> <li>• Service Provider Inventory</li> <li>• Account Inventory</li> </ul>	Action 1 of <a href="#">Asset Management</a>
Asset Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All actions of <a href="#">Encrypt Data at Rest</a></li> <li>• All actions of <a href="#">Encrypt Data in Transit</a></li> <li>• Actions 1 and 2 of <a href="#">Managing Infrastructure</a></li> </ul>
Account Security	All actions under User Recommendations of <a href="#">User Management</a>
Backup & Recovery	Action 1 of <a href="#">Backups</a>
Incident Response	Actions 1 and 4 of <a href="#">Incident Response</a>
Cyber Education	Actions 2 and 3 of <a href="#">Building and Managing Staff</a>

While effort for each worksheet can vary greatly depending on the size of your office and number of assets (computers, software, etc.), each [worksheet](#) is built to take no more than four hours the first time around and as little as 15 minutes each subsequent time. A suggestion: set aside time to do one a week until you've got them all done; then they're easy to repeat.

## Level 1 Maturity Election Priorities

In addition to the above, you should be implementing some measures specific to elections:

1. Join the [EI-ISAC](#).
2. [Protect your website](#) with simple and free tools.
3. Implement an [endpoint protection](#) program through a commercial provider or for free through the EI-ISAC.
4. Implement the [malicious domain blocking and reporting](#) tool for free through the EI-ISAC.
5. Manage your [removable media](#).

If you complete these, you have implemented all of the priority best practices for the Level 1 maturity! Keep working on other [in scope best practices](#) and work your way up to the Level 2 maturity!