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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.

How do you improve your cybersecurity posture?



Commit!



**Complete
1 simple task
each week.**



**Implement
1 best practice
each month.**



**Set aside
a minimum
amount of
resources
each quarter.**

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

- Download and complete the [worksheets](#) for the Level 1 maturity baseline. There are ten worksheets, all in one downloadable file.
 - Together, these fulfill **all** of the Level 1 baseline priorities.
 - 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.
 - 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">Hardware InventorySoftware InventoryData InventoryService Provider InventoryAccount Inventory	Action 1 of Asset Management
Asset Protection Asset Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All actions of Encrypt Data at RestAll actions of Encrypt Data in TransitActions 1 and 2 of Managing Infrastructure
Account Security	All actions under User Recommendations of User Management
Backup & Recovery	Action 1 of Backups
Incident Response	Actions 1 and 4 of Incident Response
Cyber Education	Actions 2 and 3 of Building and Managing Staff

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:

- Join the [EI-ISAC](#).
- [Protect your website](#) with simple and free tools.
- Implement an [endpoint protection](#) program through a commercial provider or for free through the EI-ISAC.
- Implement the [malicious domain blocking and reporting](#) tool for free through the EI-ISAC.
- 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!