

pax8Academy

APPLYING CIS CONTROLS

Syllabus

Updated: February 2025

Training Overview

Applying CIS Controls is a 4-session training designed to provide established MSPs with the necessary skills and knowledge to improve and strengthen their current security posture. The course will consist of a practical walkthrough of the CIS Controls Framework (<https://www.cisecurity.org/>) at the IG1 level with guidance on how each control applies to help secure the MSP. Additionally, where possible, explaining the control from the attackers' point of view and how the control helps.

During the training we will cover:

- How can I secure myself and how can I be more defensible to protect client data and support their business objectives?
- What is a framework and why is following a framework a useful tool?
- What are the IG1 (Implementation Group 1) CIS Controls and how do they help me stay secure?
- What can I do to protect devices, applications, networks, data, and users before, during, or after an incident?

Each session we will take a practical walkthrough of the CIS Controls in the IG1 framework focusing on how to APPLY each control to your business and what ACTIONS you can take to improve your defensibility.

The style of the class includes:

- Interactive discussion. Be prepared to share your successes and ask for feedback on your challenges. You will also be asked to bring articles and ideas from your own business.
- There are no right or wrong answers, just contextual viewpoints, and growth areas. This is a field where we are all learning so prepare to be respectful to our neighbor and help raise all tides together!

The goal of the course is to leave with a Plan of Action and Milestones so you can effectively implement changes to your business to increase your cybersecurity from the lens of a control framework.

What You'll Get

- 12 hours of virtual, interactive, instructor-led content taught by an experienced cybersecurity expert who can help you take your business to the next level of defensibility.
- Downloadable videos* of the content you can rewatch on-demand at your convenience.
- Downloadable slide decks, handouts, and additional videos.

Learning Objectives

By attending this course, Partners will:

- Be able to clearly define cybersecurity, defensibility, NIST, CIS, and the Cyber Defense Matrix.
- Understand the importance of a cybersecurity framework and how to use it to make their business more defensible.
- Review the 18 CIS Controls and discuss how to apply each control to their business.
- Create a Plan of Actions and Milestones (POAM) to implement the CIS Controls.

* Videos will either be recordings from your session or previously recorded material in which partner faces and voices have been removed. It is recommended to attend courses live to receive the full benefits of interactive Q&A with the instructor and class.

Schedule of Topics

- Session 1:
 - Defining cybersecurity, defensibility, NIST, CIS Controls, the Cyber Defense Matrix, POAM
 - Control 1 – Inventory and control of enterprise assets
 - Control 2 – Inventory and control of software assets; complete a Business Impact Assessment for your MSP
 - Control 3 – Data protection; Microsoft Information Protection example
 - Control 4 – Secure configuration of enterprise assets and software; Microsoft Endpoint Cloud Config Policies example
- Session 2:
 - Control 5 – Account Management; discuss what accounts have the most impact if compromised and how to address those weaknesses
 - Control 6 – Access Control Management; MFA, SSO, PW Managers
 - Control 7 – Continuous Vulnerability Management; patching systems, automated scans
 - Control 8 – Audit log management; Log systems or SIEMs, prioritizing systems
- Session 3:
 - Control 9 – Email and web browser protection; how to limit to one browser or email client, using DNS services, modern email protection
 - Control 10 – Malware defenses; Intune deploy EDR example
 - Control 11 – Data recovery; Collaboratively building a process (wireframe), Looking at Data Recovery from a BIA perspective
 - Control 12 – Network infrastructure management; Should I standardize?
- Session 4:
 - Control 13 – Network Monitoring and Defense (No IG1s)
 - Control 14 – Security Awareness and Skills Training; Discuss cost vs effectiveness
 - Control 15 – Service Provider Management; Review your riskiest partnerships
 - Control 16 – Application Software Security (No IG1s); A discussion on Vendor application security and risk
 - Control 17 – Incident Response Management; Phases of incident response, what to do or think about during your response
 - Control 18 – Penetration Testing (No IG1s) When should I use a Penetration Test?

This course also includes office hours where you can ask business specific questions.

Instructor



Matt Lee
Security and Compliance Senior Director

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Testimonials

“Matt Lee is amazing. He kept my attention the entire time with very relevant real-world examples. He was encouraging and supportive of us getting through the CIS 18. I wish the class was a few months instead of a few weeks so I can just listen to Matt elaborate further on the controls, industry software, and his past experiences.”
-J. Nash, Leet LLC

“Matt and Bessie were great, this information is really relevant and helpful despite anyone's current security knowledge whether you are a beginner or have an advanced intake on what was covered. The involvement within Miro was helpful as well. Thank you.”
-R. Garza, Premier One

“Matt is awesome, knowledge, experience, and the ability to engage and cut through it in ways that are highly relevant. Super appreciate Pax8 providing this excellent learning experience.”
-P. Cooley, IT Productivity

“Great information surrounding real world security controls and insight on moving forward.”
- V. Shuler, Vandalay Technology Services

“Our team had spent countless hours reading articles, listening to podcasts, and going back and forth amongst ourselves, and it seemed all we did was come up with more and more questions surrounding CIS implementation. To say that Matt Lee and this training was the lifeline we were looking for, is an understatement. To have the space to not only learn, but discuss questions and receive much needed clarification was invaluable.”
– C. Watts, Colorado Hi-Tech Solutions

“The CIS Controls material and course were thoroughly comprehensive, offering essential insights and training for individuals tasked with cyber security policy and execution. I would strongly suggest this course as a valuable resource to develop a strategic plan centered on a practical set of controls that can be systematically applied.”
- A. Mednis, APM IT Solutions

Additional Resources

Next Steps

Explore your next step with Pax8 Academy:



[CIS Critical Security Controls](#)

- On-Demand Content
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