

Primex³ & New Hampshire Municipal Association Joint Cybersecurity Advisory

April 29, 2022

Intelligence from recent web surface scans revealed a list of all New Hampshire municipal websites. While this information is publicly available through various directories, it presents an important reminder of a potential threat to our membership.

This activity can be considered an early indicator of potential attack planning and communication between threat actors. Municipal websites can be defaced to further public misinformation.

There are several things you can do to prepare your organization for this type of attack:

1. Notify your Information Technology (IT) staff or Managed Service Provider of this potential vulnerability. Ask that they secure your website, ensuring they are up to date with all patches.
2. Ensure all passwords over one year old are changed immediately. Complex passwords, also known as passphrases, are best. Consider using a minimum of 11 characters, including spaces to strengthen security.
3. Regularly review your website looking for changes. These may be obvious (e.g., inappropriate images or messages) or more subtle (e.g., changes to office hours or voter registration times).
4. Consider updating to a more secure website option. Some members use dated software that should be updated to provide additional hardening. Transitioning to .gov is free to all municipal members through the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and can limit the ability for attackers to “spoof” official web pages.

If you do not have an IT staff or Managed Service Provider to assist you with your website, call Primex³ or NHMA for additional assistance and resources.

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