



# Cyber Sync

Strengthening Municipal Defenses  
Through Information Sharing



# Agenda

- A Brief History of Cybercrime
- Cybersecurity is Expensive
- Attacks in the RGV
- The Need for Collaboration
- The Benefits of Collaboration
- Resources and groups

# A Brief History of Cyber Crime

## 1990s: New Technology Brings New Crime

- The world goes online
- Mostly hobbyists and enthusiasts
- Objective Fame & Prank
- Loses estimated: tens of millions



# A Brief History of Cyber Crime

2000s: Cybercrime ramps up

- Monetization Era
- Crime begins to get Organized
- Loses estimated over 100 billion



# A Brief History of Cyber Crime

## 2010s: An Explosion of Cyber Attacks

- The Ransomware Era
- Cybercriminal groups organize together
- Nation sponsored hackers
- Loses broke the trillion-dollar mark



# A Brief History of Cyber Crime

## 2020s: Billions of Dollars Lost

- Ransomware fully Develops
- Now the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest global economy
- Critical infrastructure is now a target for ransomware
- Estimated to be 10.5 Trillion annually



**Ransomware Attack Shuts Down A Top U.S. Gasoline Pipeline**

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# Cybersecurity Is Expensive

## Requirements:

- Staff
- Technology
- Time
- Training



# Need for Collaboration

- Vendors sell products – all about the money
- Limited resources for cyber security
- Small talent pool
- Geographical separation
- Culture shift

# Cyber Attacks in the Rio Grande Valley

- County November 2014
- School District March 2019
- Municipality June 2019
- Hospital October 2020
- School District December 2020
- Medical Facility September 2021
- Utility March 2022
- Law Enforcement February 2023
- Municipality October 2023
- Higher Education December 2024
- Municipality February 2025
- Hospital March 2025

LOCAL  
Our Neighbors

# Benefits of Collaboration

- Strengthen relations
- Shared resources
- Regional Insights
- Regional preparedness

# Example: Multi Factor Authentication

- McAllen is deploying Multi Factor Authentication
- We have spent many hours researching
  - Pain points
  - Multiple products
  - Employee onboarding
- Can share the approach to give insights

# Resources

- UTRGV RSOC
- RGV Cyber
- Join our mailing list
- Local cybersecurity conferences



# Questions





# Thank You

and

## Stay Secure

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