



# **Cybersecurity Accessibility For All**





# Rick Wilhelm

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Background in enterprise software,  
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Currently focus on maintaining the  
security of PIR operations and working to  
improve the security and stability of the  
Internet along with PIR's partners.



## Public Interest Registry

is the people behind .ORG

With more than **10.8 million domain names** registered worldwide, PIR maintains the highest standards in policies, practices, & technologies.

.ORG is the cleanest large domain space, prioritizing safety, security, and quality to mission-driven organizations and individuals across the globe.



**Rockville**  
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.



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## LOCAL CRIME &amp; PUBLIC SAFETY

# A fire department paid \$220,000 for new ambulances. It was scammed.

The Rockville Volunteer Fire Department was a victim of “business email compromise” during what was supposed to be a secure wire transfer.



By [Jasmine Hilton](#)

May 12, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. EDT



“We do not often spend \$220,000 outlay, so putting that money together, and now losing it, is a huge shock to our system,” said Eric N. Bernard, president of the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department. (Ed Tenney)

## MOST READ LOCAL &gt;

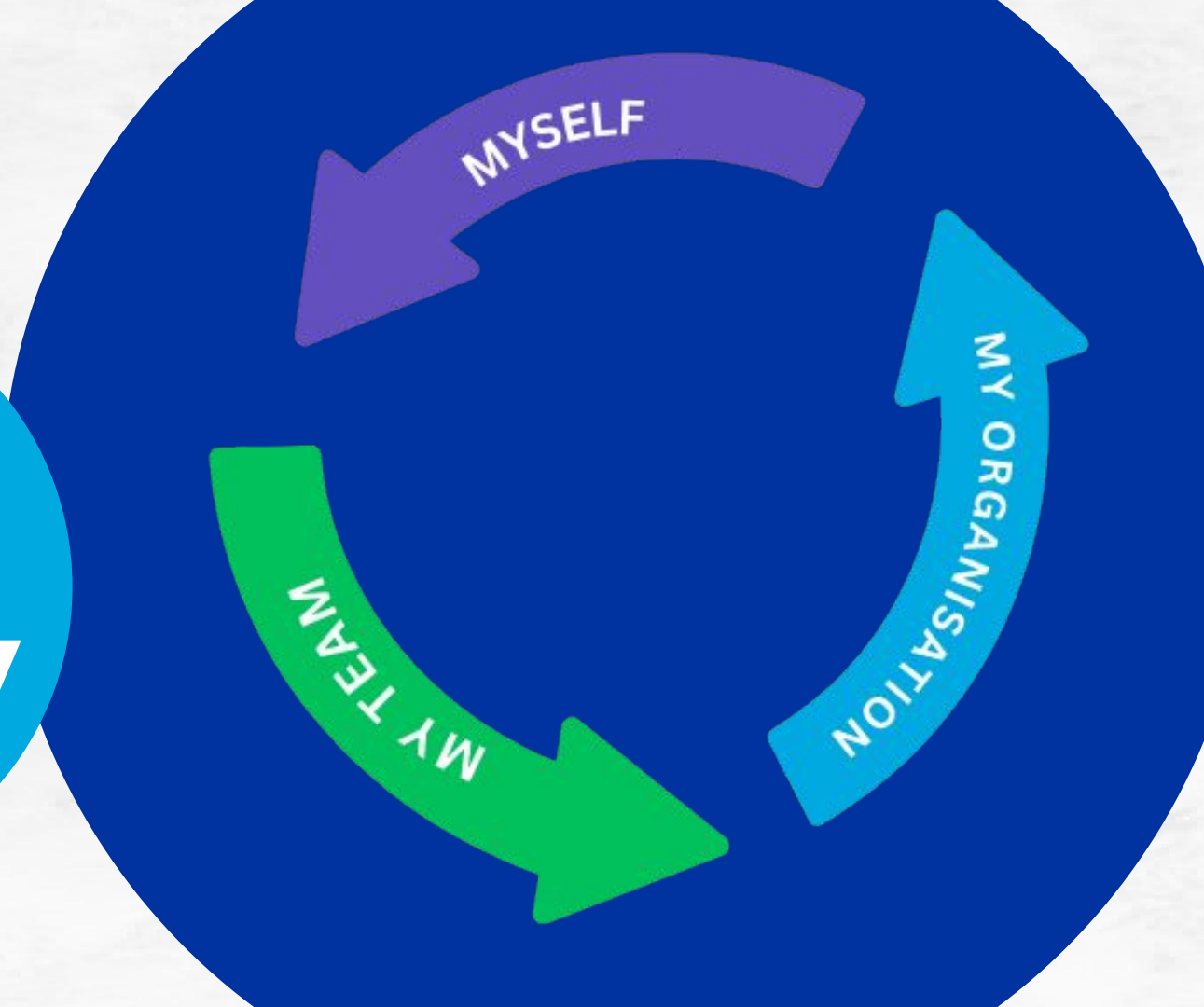


**1** Roger Corman, low-budget filmmaker who launched many careers, dies at 98





Simple Ways  
to Improve  
**Security**





# Improve Account Security

- Review/strengthen individual passwords
  - All random passwords
  - Minimum 12 characters
  - More valuable account? Longer password!
- No NOT reuse passwords across accounts
  - Do you have the same key for two doors??
- Use MFA whenever possible
  - Prefer an authenticator app to SMS
  - Expect to have/use many apps!





# Invest in a Password Manager

- Needed due to points re: account security!
  - All different, random passwords
- Expect to pay something
  - Read CREDIBLE reviews
  - Pay attention to previous security issues
- Deploy on laptop and mobile device
  - Invest time and make use of
- Browser's password manager is not a substitute



# Maintain Account Inventory

- What services do we have?
- Who has access?
- What access level does each person have?
  
- Establish individual accounts
- Avoid using shared passwords
  
- Create review plan: annual, quarterly
- Establish onboarding & offboarding process



# Improve Security Awareness

- Security is a Team Game
  - Everyone plays a part in keeping safe
- Talk about security regularly
  - Share stories you find interesting
- Reward security literacy and achievement
  - Model behaviors you want to see



# Maintain Your Computers

- Regular patching of laptops, tablets, phones
- Invest in anti-virus / endpoint protection
  - Solutions are platform-dependent
  - Key for Windows; still needed for Mac
  - Needs to be updated regularly
- Prioritize those that handle money and PII
- Set standards/requirements for volunteers with access



# Make Security a Priority

- Discuss security topics at executive and board level
- Budget for security across departments
- Seek technical/security expertise on board
- Supplement with vetted outside experts

# IN SUMMARY...



**1** Improve account security

**2** Invest in a password mgr

**3** Maintain account inventory

**4** Improve security awareness

**5** Maintain your computers

**6** Make security a priority





# RVFD Victim of Cyber Crime

MAY 9, 2024 / NEWS AND EVENTS / NO COMMENTS

In late April, the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department was targeted by cyber criminals. While impersonating a vendor RVFD has been working with, these criminals stole over \$200,000 that was meant to be a down payment for the purchase of two new ambulances that will be used to better serve the Rockville community.

Upon learning of this crime, RVFD immediately reported it to the Montgomery County Police Department, the United States Secret Service (who handle cybercrimes related to finances) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. RVFD also updated our allies within Montgomery County Government, who have been immensely helpful throughout this process.

Due to quick action on the part of RVFD's bank, about half of what was stolen was recovered. Thanks to decades of generosity from the community RVFD serves, we remain in a strong financial position to both complete this purchase and to continue operations as normal.

Visit our  Learning Center

For more resources

[www.orglearningcenter.org](http://www.orglearningcenter.org)

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# Questions?

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