

The 18 CIS Critical Security Controls

Cybersecurity awareness month is about to take us on an educational journey of "Fact or Hack."

By following CIS Controls as best practices, you'll not only bolster your digital defenses but also gain the confidence to navigate the complex cybersecurity landscape.



BACKGROUND:

Formerly the SANS Critical Security Controls (SANS Top 20), these are now officially called the [CIS Critical Security Controls \(CIS Controls\)](#).

CIS Controls Version 8 combines and consolidates the CIS Controls by activities, rather than by who manages the devices. Physical devices, fixed boundaries, and discrete islands of security implementation are less important. This is reflected in v8 through revised terminology and grouping of Safeguards, resulting in a decrease of the number of Controls from 20 to 18.

- **CIS Control 1:** Inventory and Control of Enterprise Assets
- **CIS Control 2:** Inventory and Control of Software Assets
- **CIS Control 3:** Data Protection
- **CIS Control 4:** Secure Configuration of Enterprise Assets and Software
- **CIS Control 5:** Account Management
- **CIS Control 6:** Access Control Management
- **CIS Control 7:** Continuous Vulnerability Management
- **CIS Control 8:** Audit Log Management
- **CIS Control 9:** Email and Web Browser Protections
- **CIS Control 10:** Malware Defenses
- **CIS Control 11:** Data Recovery
- **CIS Control 12:** Network Infrastructure Management
- **CIS Control 13:** Network Monitoring and Defense
- **CIS Control 14:** Security Awareness and Skills Training
- **CIS Control 15:** Service Provider Management
- **CIS Control 16:** Application Software Security
- **CIS Control 17:** Incident Response Management
- **CIS Control 18:** Penetration Testing