



THIS  
MONTH'S  
FOCUS

## NATIONAL INSIDER THREAT AWARENESS MONTH

# NITAM

### National Insider Threat Awareness Month

The first National Insider Threat Awareness Month (NITAM) was launched in September 2019 as a joint effort between federal agencies and the insider threat practitioner community to emphasize the importance of safeguarding our nation from the risks posed by insiders, and to share best practices for mitigating those risks. The 2019 effort was a rousing success and started what has now become an annual event. The theme for this year's recognition is Resilience. No one could've predicted the security challenges we would face in 2020. COVID-19 has presented a unique risk environment, increasing both threats and vulnerabilities. Insider Threat programs are uniquely positioned to meet this challenge, deploying multidisciplinary teams to deter, detect, and mitigate insider risk while protecting the

privacy and civil liberties of the workforce. Insider Threat programs are also proactive in nature, can often mitigate risk before a negative event occurs, and can foster both individual and organizational resilience leading to positive outcomes for all.

Unfortunately, insider threat incidents are on the rise, and there is no such thing as a victimless insider incident. They have impacted public and private organizations, caused damage to national security, resulted in the loss or compromise of classified information, and in the most tragic cases, led to the loss of life. The Ponemon Institute, a research center

dedicated to privacy, data protection, and information security policy, recently published a study on cybersecurity incidents caused by insiders. The study found that incidents have increased by 47% since 2018, and the average annual cost of insider threats has skyrocketed to \$11.45 million. That is a 31% increase in just two years. As a result, raising awareness of the Insider Threat and the role of Insider Threat programs in mitigating insider risk is critical for national and economic security. Federal agencies, DoD components, and industry have partnered to bring this information to their workforces and the general public. The Center for Development of Security Excellence (CDSE) has led this effort with a comprehensive campaign resulting in NITAM.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
*Most insider threats display concerning behaviors or risk indicators prior to engaging in negative events.*



CDSE – Center for Development of Security Excellence



@TheCDSE



Center for Development of Security Excellence





CDSE has dedicated an entire [website](#) to NITAM 2020. This site will help identify a variety of products and resources available for use within an organization. From utilizing customizable awareness materials, to hosting an Insider Threat Awareness day, actions both small and large will help bring attention to the counter-insider threat mission. It is important to remain vigilant at all times. Security threats are constant and dynamic, and increase during times of stress and chaos.

Rebecca Morgan, Chief of the Insider Threat division at CDSE, recently spoke at a webinar about the pandemic. She said, "When we think about managing risk in this environment, we have to acknowledge that it is more dynamic than ever." According to a report published by a leading provider of IT security software and hardware products, malicious actors are leveraging COVID-19 to launch cyberattacks (phishing emails, malicious apps), scams (charity scams, vaccine scams), disinformation and malign influence (misinformation about virus origins and cures), and supply chain threats. The report also revealed that over 30,100 domains related to the pandemic were registered in March. Of those, 0.4% (131) were malicious and

9% (2,777) were considered suspicious. Trusting just one of these compromised sites could open the door to malware and potential data theft. The risks are clear and present, and should be taken seriously. But, the goal of the insider threat program is not just to catch people when they do something wrong – it's about helping them before they even start down the wrong path.

William Evanina, Director, National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC), recently stated, "There are deeply personal human struggles related to healthcare, child care, financial insecurity, and political and cultural fissures. The risks for espionage, unauthorized disclosure, fraud, theft and even unwitting insider threat actions are higher than ever."

The stress and pressures of the current health and socio-political climate certainly have the capability to increase vulnerabilities. However, the purpose of insider threat programs, and why they aim to deter, detect, and mitigate risk, is to turn people around, not turn them in. These programs are multi-disciplinary in nature and are designed to evaluate the entirety of a situation in proper context. They treat each inquiry as



an individual matter while balancing and respecting privacy and civil liberties. Mitigation response options often include solutions that provide help and resources for those in need.

CDSE has produced the [Vigilance Video series](#), eight episodes highlighting employees who observe insider threat indicators in their coworkers and report their observations. Their goal is to get their coworkers the help or intervention they need and protect their organizations' information, facilities, and personnel.

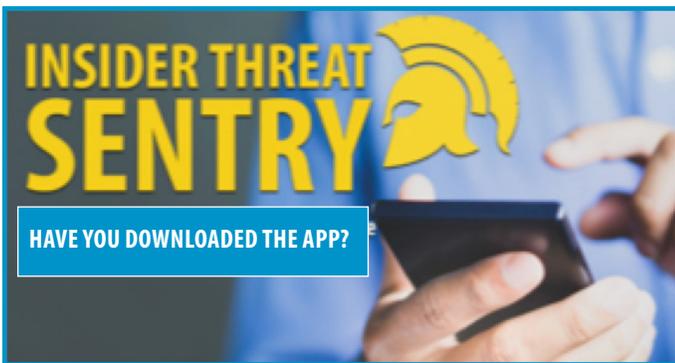
This month and beyond, take the necessary steps to educate yourself, your organization, and your stakeholders on insider threats and learn to minimize and mitigate risks. This year has presented a host of security challenges, but we must adapt to them to safeguard the nation. Threats have changed, vulnerabilities have changed, and the countermeasures used to mitigate risk need to change right along with them.



## WE MAKE IT EASY TO PARTICIPATE IN NITAM 2020

Our new NITAM web page provides you with awareness materials to build your insider threat program and help your organization detect, deter, and mitigate insider threats through increased vigilance and awareness. Consider hosting an Insider Threat Awareness day or including learning resources in your

newsletters and email communications. Or, give your organization a tool to report suspicious behavior with our customizable “see something, say something” **card**. Whichever path you take, you can do your part to safeguard national security and help bring attention to the counter-insider threat mission.



Earlier this year, CDSE rolled out the Insider Threat Sentry mobile phone application and made it available to users in the app store for Android and iOS. The app provides direct access to relevant insider threat content in one easy-to-use place.

Users can download posters, play vigilance games, watch videos, and access resources in a toolkit to promote insider threat awareness all year long. The app maintains a 5-star rating on Apple.

### INSIDER THREAT SOCIAL MEDIA

 <https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Interest/CDSE-Insider-Threat-Awareness-604498590023561/>

 @InT\_Aware

## NEW ANIMATION DEMONSTRATES RESILIENCE



Gio is a security manager with increasing responsibilities. Like most people, he has good days and bad days. Watch the **video** to see how Gio manages his work and life when pushed to the limit.

Resilience is the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties and stressful

situations. Building resilience helps individuals develop behaviors, thoughts, and actions that promote emotional well-being and mental health. Without this attribute, some people are at increased risk to become an insider threat.

## PERSONAL RESILIENCE AND INSIDER THREAT WEBINAR: HARDENING THE TARGET

Watch our on-demand webinar featuring a behavioral psychology expert who talks about personal resilience and insider threat. What does “Hardening the Target” mean and how can organizations take the necessary steps to protect their people and data? Access it **here**.





## INSIDER CASE STUDY: SHAMAI LEIBOWITZ

Read, then learn about the indicators and consequences of linguist and cleared contractor Shamai Leibowitz who willfully disclosed 200 pages of classified information to an unauthorized recipient [here](#).



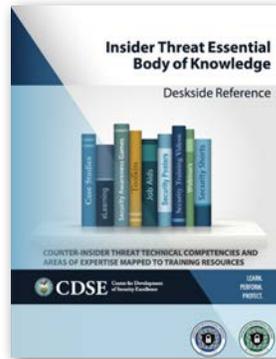
performance support tools on our website. Security professionals can explore more willful unauthorized disclosures that put intelligence sources, methods, and operations at risk. To find more like this, visit the [NITAM web page](#) or our new searchable [case study library](#).

Based on our surveys, CDSE case studies are some of the most downloaded

### INSIDER THREAT EARNING COURSES:

Online learning is essential for professionals in the security field. Scroll through more than a dozen eLearning courses in the CDSE [catalog](#) and learn how to help your program detect, deter, and mitigate insider threats by increasing awareness and promoting reporting.

## HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BECOMING A COUNTER-INSIDER THREAT PROFESSIONAL?



Insider Threat Professional (CCITP) - Fundamentals or Analysis specialty - could be for you. Achieving this certification will not only set you apart in the insider threat profession, it will also help you establish workforce credibility and foster a professional identity. The CDSE has multiple resources to help you prepare, including a [deskside reference job aid](#), registration information, and more [here](#).

If you're a current DoD or federal agency insider threat professional looking to take your expertise to the next level, becoming a Certified Counter-

## NEW CDSE PSAs NOW AVAILABLE

Are you a security manager looking to share information with your organization about CDSE learning opportunities? Spread the word about our free Training, Education, and Certification programs with these three separate Public Service Announcements (PSAs):

TRAINING



EDUCATION



CERTIFICATION



Any questions or more information about these PSAs can be directed to [dcsa.ncr.dcsa-cdse.mbx.cdse-communications@mail.mil](mailto:dcsa.ncr.dcsa-cdse.mbx.cdse-communications@mail.mil)



**LINKS TO MORE INSIDER THREAT RESOURCES:**

NITAM 2020 web page  
<https://www.cdse.edu/itawareness/index.html>

National Insider Threat Task Force  
<https://www.dni.gov/index.php/ncsc-features/1449>

NCSC Awareness Materials  
<https://www.dni.gov/index.php/ncsc-how-we-work/ncsc-know-the-risk-raise-your-shield/ncsc-awareness-materials>

CDSE Insider Threat Toolkit:  
<https://www.cdse.edu/toolkits/insider/index.php>

CDSE Resilience Toolkit:  
<https://www.cdse.edu/toolkits/insider/resilience.html>

CDSE Vigilance Toolkit:  
<https://www.cdse.edu/toolkits/insider/vigilance.html>

## WHAT'S COMING IN OCTOBER?

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month! This year, CDSE's focus is on cybersecurity at home and in the office to raise awareness about the importance of securing our work environments. Stay tuned for updates on cybersecurity games and a two-part webinar series.

In addition, three Know Your CDSE Speaker Series events are scheduled for October 1, 8, and 27, virtually covering Cybersecurity, Industrial Security, and Personnel Security courses, performance support tools, and resources to enhance your knowledge and skills. **Sign up today!**

## DID YOU MISS THE INSIDER THREAT VIRTUAL SECURITY CONFERENCE?

In case you missed the Virtual Security Conference on September 3, CDSE Insider Threat Division Chief and Conference Host Rebecca Morgan is making the event resources available to insider threat practitioners, counterintelligence and security professionals from the DoD, federal agencies, private industry, critical infrastructure sectors, and academia. Stay tuned for more information.

## ON-DEMAND WEBINAR: COUNTERINTELLIGENCE & INSIDER THREAT IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

In case you missed this webinar last month, you can still watch it and learn how COVID-19 has created unique insider threat challenges. During this 60-minute event, our subject matter experts discuss the changing threat and vulnerability environment and how the countermeasures we use to mitigate risk need to change along with them. Access it [here](#).



### WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

*"This was one of the best online training sessions I've taken for content, voice tracking, and style."*  
— Student

*"I feel that the insider classes have opened up doors that have made me more aware of insider threats."*  
— Student

Course: Insider Threat Awareness – INT101.16

