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### Cybersecurity Governance and Standards

When thinking of cybersecurity, some may say technology, the architecture of how interconnected devices work together, protecting the internet, and many more. Though those are good answers, there is so much more that goes into it for citizens to use. Cybersecurity is the practice of protecting systems, networks, and data from digital attacks. If this isn't protected, hackers can gain unauthorized access, cause damage, or even steal sensitive information.

Cybersecurity is a broad category of technologies and policies designed to keep information safe, ensuring the integrity, confidentiality, and availability of citizens' assets. In order to safeguard against these attacks, the government implements policies and procedures to keep citizens' information confidential.

Cybersecurity Governance and Standards are the framework and policies that guide how organizations manage cyber risks. There are numerous tasks used, like defining roles and responsibilities, aligning cybersecurity with business values, and ensuring compliance with laws and regulations. The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency highlights the importance of overseeing cyber threats: "Cybersecurity governance is a comprehensive cybersecurity strategy that integrates with organizational operations and prevents the interruption of activities due to cyber threats or attacks".

The main focus of this policy and standard is the development of the “National Institute of Standards and Technology”, to help organizations manage and reduce cyber threats. It was created in response to “Executive Order 13636” to protect critical infrastructure, but it is now used amongst various organizations. It is organized into five tiers that represent the lifecycle of cybersecurity management, which are: Identify, Protect, Detect, Respond, and Recover. This helps current and target cybersecurity goals by helping align cyber activities with business and governmental goals.

The NIST framework is a cornerstone of the U.S. federal cybersecurity that was implemented during the Executive Order 13636 to improve critical infrastructure. Since then, the framework has been adopted globally due to its risk-based approach. It is mapped to international standards like ISO/IEC 27001, creating a cross-border policy alignment. Countries in Latin America, Europe, and Asia have integrated NIST into national strategies, showing the importance and impact of the framework. The Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF) in Geneva, Switzerland, has adopted the framework. In addition to the framework, the country added “Governance” as a tier of the original five-step framework in the U.S. adding this tier, “Establishes cybersecurity strategy, policies, education, and roles that protect our citizens from cyber threats” .

Cybersecurity Governance and Standards are essential pillars in the global effort to manage cyber attacks and threats. NIST is one of the most important Cybersecurity policies and standards by acknowledging every critical part of a cyber threat using ways to mitigate and restore trust amongst the public and institutions.

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