Cybersecurity Initiative Exercise: Education Defense Unit (EDU)
Sector: Education / ISAC

Overview:
- The Education Defense Unit (EDU) is an ISAC initiative created to enhance cybersecurity across educational institutions. Launched in 2021 during the transition to online learning amid the COVID-19 pandemic, EDU is designed to protect sensitive student and faculty data while reducing institutional liability risks.

Objectives:
- Data Protection: Safeguard student and faculty personally identifiable information (PII).
- Risk Mitigation: Lower potential liability through proactive cybersecurity measures.
- Trust Building: Enhance confidence in school administration by strengthening security practices.
- Operational Efficiency: Improve workflow by cultivating a larger, informed staff pool in cybersecurity best practices.

Services Offered:
- Comprehensive Training**:** Deliver cybersecurity training for students and educators based on NIST protocols.
- Budget Consultation: Provide annual consultations to help institutions plan and allocate their cybersecurity budgets effectively.
- Threat Intelligence**:** Maintain an up-to-date mailing list on common threats and recent cybersecurity events.
- Penetration Testing**:** Offer anonymous pen testing to assess and refine campus security measures.
- Security Analysis**:** Implement a continuous analysis and rating system to monitor and enhance campus cybersecurity postures.

Membership Structure:
- Member Base**:** Serves over 200 educational institutions across the East Coast, including colleges, public, and private schools.
- Fee Model**:** Membership fees are tailored based on the institution's size, available resources, tuition model, and prestige.

Strategic Impact:
- The EDU initiative demonstrates the ability to deploy tailored cybersecurity solutions that bridge technical expertise with organizational strategy. By combining training, consulting, and rigorous testing, EDU not only fortifies institutional defenses but also fosters a culture of proactive security awareness across campuses.