

Name: Julian Welge

Link: <https://www.alaskapublic.org/2021/06/24/amid-cyberattacks-alaskas-top-cybersecurity-official-quietly-left-his-job/>

Summary:

Similar with trends across the nation, there has been an increasing number of cyber attacks on Alaska's infrastructure. This article explains that around the same time as Alaska had been a victim of another cyber attack on their systems operated by the court system, the Department of Health, and Social Services to go offline, the man in charge of overseeing the security of these systems has "quietly left his job". The article explains there has been a lot of turnover at this position including 5 different people working this position between 2018 and 2019.

Why We Care:

This is extremely concerning as cyber attacks continue to naw at our infrastructure, with the turnover at this job position and someone conveniently stepping away when another attack takes these systems offline, it tells me that individuals in this position don't see a future in solving the problems they're currently facing and are most likely overwhelmed by the scope of work.

Not only is this bad for Alaska, but weaker systems being exploited in one state can be seen as vulnerability to exploit systems throughout all of our states, meaning it's only a matter of time we begin to feel the pressures these professionals have felt in Alaska within our own systems (if we haven't already).

It's also a difficult topic to be specific about to the public as we would like to make people aware of the need to fix various cyber problems within our systems without creating a map of vulnerabilities for someone to exploit in the future.