

17 Insider Threat Simulation Log Day 5: Unsecured File Basement

Date of Entry: 6/20/2025

Observer: Michael Warner

Location: Basement Storage Area

Classification: Internal Security Simulation

Incident Overview

On the fifth day of my insider threat simulation, I observed a significant physical security lapse in the basement file storage area. As part of my regular duties, I often access this space to store physical documents. It recently occurred to me that none of the storage boxes are locked, and the basement itself has no visible security controls in place.

There are no surveillance cameras inside the basement, and I am unaware of any monitoring or logging for the door that leads into it. In addition to the lack of access control, environmental hazards were apparent — the basement is prone to flooding, and sensitive files are stored directly on the floor in some areas. A single water event could lead to irreversible data loss.

Risk Assessment

Physical file vulnerabilities introduce several security and compliance risks:

- Unauthorized physical access to potentially sensitive or regulated information
- No access logs to determine who has viewed or taken files
- Complete exposure to theft, tampering, or loss of documents
- High risk of environmental damage due to flooding or humidity

This situation reflects a lack of physical and environmental controls for sensitive asset protection.

Speculative Insider Perspective

From a malicious insider perspective, this is a low-effort, high-reward opportunity. I could:

- Access confidential or proprietary information without detection
- Remove, copy, or destroy documents at will
- Exploit the disorganized or unmonitored nature of the space to hide evidence
- Use the environmental risk as cover for staged “accidental” data loss

With no surveillance or inventory system, activities in this area would go unnoticed.

Initial Thoughts & Actions

I did not manipulate or review specific files during this simulation. My observations were purely environmental and noted during normal work-related duties. All documentation was done discretely in line with simulation protocol.

Recommendations (Low-Impact Suggestions)

- Conduct an immediate audit of physical documents stored in the basement
- Install a surveillance camera or motion sensor near the entry door
- Require file boxes to be secured with locks or stored in locking cabinets
- Elevate all file storage off the floor to prevent water damage
- Introduce a sign-in log or keycard system to track basement access

Severity Rating

High — due to the combination of unrestricted physical access, lack of surveillance, and environmental hazards compromising long-term document integrity.

- End of Entry