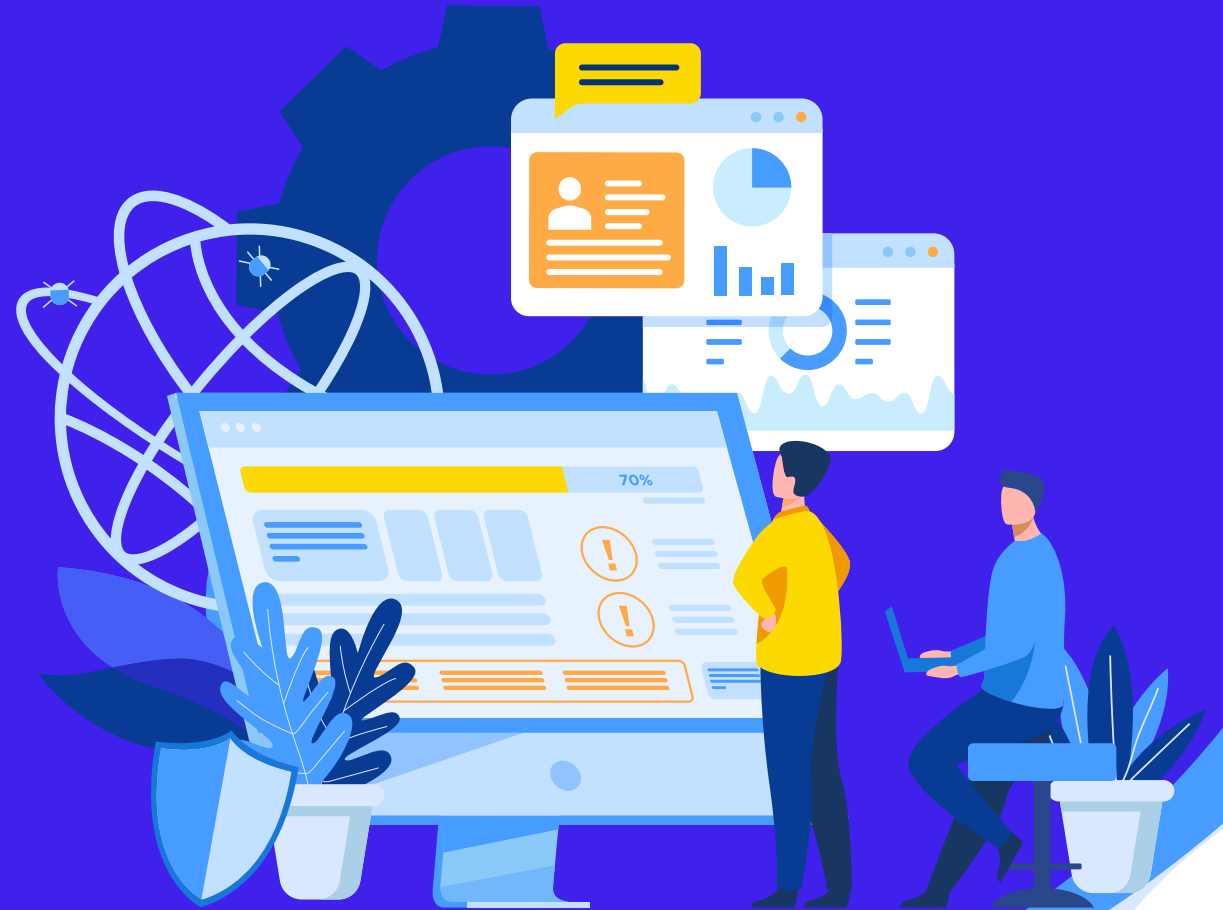# Saphisle

Cyber Security After Covid-19:

3 Essential Steps

The Threat Landscape

As the coronavirus pandemic unfolded, cyber security threats persisted and may have even expanded. Many organisations will have to face the reality that they're targets for cyber crime, no matter their size.

We've seen that cyber threats can rise during a crisis because:

- Bad actors exploit uncertainty to trigger an emotional response in users.

- Organisations, seeking to move quickly to protect people from harm, may accidentally leave their systems vulnerable to exploitation.

From business email compromise (BEC) to distributed denial of service (DDoS) and phishing, the threat landscape of the future is broad. In fact, of the 4,000 domains associated with the coronavirus that were established since the start of 2020, 3% were considered malicious and another 5% were deemed suspicious.[1]

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[1] https://security.berkeley.edu/news/scammers-are-exploiting-coronavirus-fears-phish-users
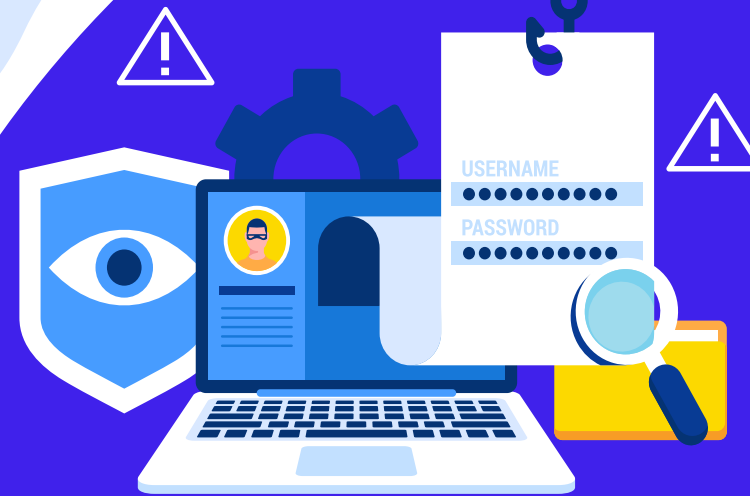
Step One:
Stabilisation

To move forwards from Covid-19**, organisations will need to prioritise security tasks based on:**

- What must be accomplished right away, including high-risk threats and quick fixes.

- Issues that require careful, long-term planning.

Incorporate these three phases into your approach to data breaches:

1. Prevent breaches from occurring.

2. In a reasonable time frame, detect breaches that have occurred.

3. React to those breaches in a way that mitigates damage while being responsive and transparent.


Organisations must also educate their users about potential cyber security issues and active threats.

For instance, **train people to spot the hallmarks of phishing attempts,**[2] such as:

- Impersonating trusted or authoritative contacts.

- Creating a false sense of urgency.

- Appealing to emotional responses.

- Instilling a sense of scarcity around promised items.

[2] us-cert.cisa.gov/ncas/alerts/aa20-099a
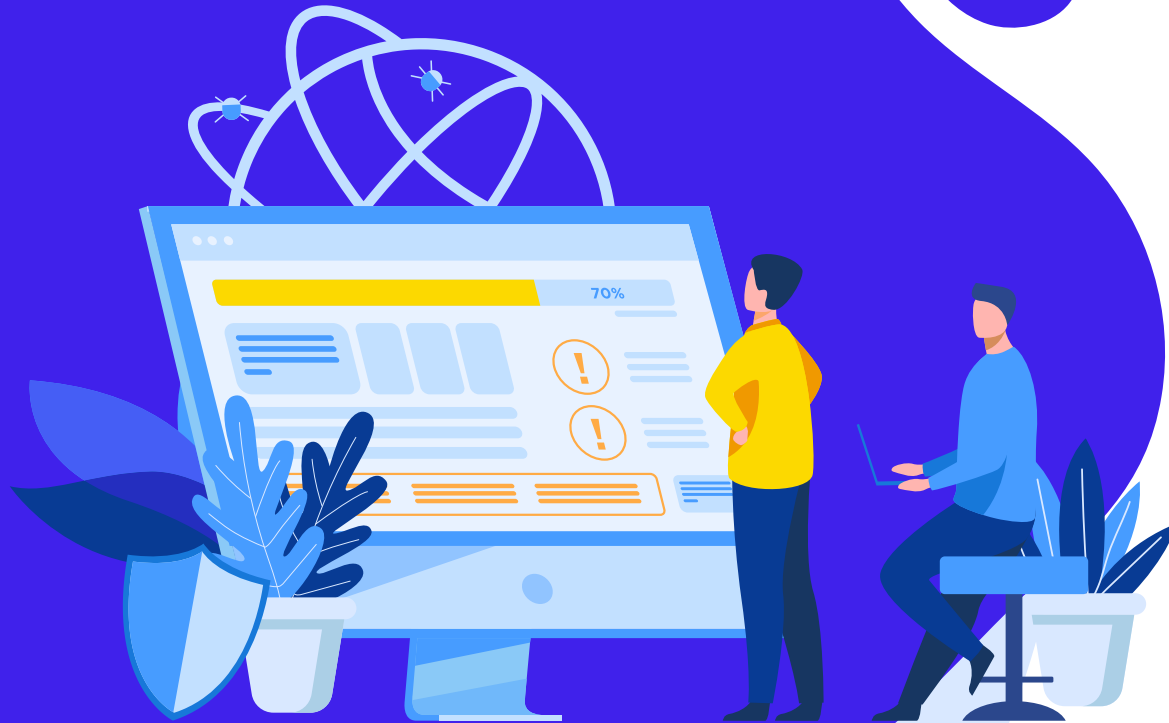
Step Two:
Optimisation

Cyber security optimisation after Covid-19 will present unique challenges. Among other issues, the economic pressures resulting from the pandemic will require organisations to act with a clear purpose and determined creativity.

Security departments will be tasked simultaneously with operating more efficiently and more economically. It's a difficult balancing act to pull off, but it's within your capabilities.

Focus on:

- Reviewing existing items, like the organisational structure and available services, with an eye towards efficiency.

- Demonstrating to the C-suite how security efforts have lowered costs and delivered a substantial return on investment.

Keep in mind that optimisation requires continuous refinement. Improve effectiveness of security processes –for example– set up automatic patching and updates and stay current about new patching needs.

Step Three:
Transformation

Security experts and their institutions will be tasked with transforming:

- **People:** Leaders and users alike need new skills, appropriate training, clear communication and support for culture change.

- **Processes:** Workflows must accommodate new threats and allow for greater agility.

- **Tech capabilities:** Upgrading software and hardware will prove crucial.

- **Governance:** Organisations must use thoughtful leadership to pull off the kind of full-scale transformation that's needed.

After Covid-19, we'll enter a new world, one in which customer sentiments and expectations will be drastically altered and the rules for operating a business will have changed.

It's time to transform your company to meet this new reality.

Now more than ever, from top to bottom, organisational members need to embrace the importance of managing security throughout all of their interactions.

Preparing for the Next Step

The three stages we've outlined here — stabilisation, optimisation and transformation — are essential not only for responding to Covid-19 and the days ahead but also for meeting the unknown challenges of the future. Together, they represent a blueprint for resiliency in the face of sudden change.

But you can't move forwards until you've got the right people and services in place to help you respond to recent events and prepare for the future.

No security system can be successful if it embraces a one-size-fits-all mindset.
Your needs are unique, and they require unique support.

To find out how the experts at Saphisle can help you put the right solutions in place, **reach out to us today.**

Saphisle

hello@saphisle.com

📞 +44 (0) 203 633 3000

🌐 71-75 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, London WC2H 9JQ