



The CYBER GURU



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When thinking about one's relationship with technology, the concept of trust isn't one that usually comes to mind. Trust is generally the emotion that is reserved for a life-to-life connection, but in this growing age of artificial intelligence and all things future, it may end up being the most important one of all.

From the technical perspective, system administrators are encouraged to play the Zero Trust Security game, as coined by the folks at Forrester Research. This means that we, as the end-user, can no longer be trusted to do the right thing, whether intentionally or not. Instead, the infrastructure must be designed to monitor and thwart potential threats

from both outside and inside an organization.

To swallow the bitter pill, it may help to ingest a bit of sugar, so let's look at one way in which this approach is beneficial to each of us. In order to defend, one must know what is being defended. As such, when sensitive data is identified by the data owners and the technical protectors, they are more easily able to keep it secure. While efforts are made to educate end-users about the risks of storing and transmitting sensitive personally identifiable information, it only takes one email with one attachment to result in a data breach. As such, features such as Data Loss Prevention policies are implemented within the Office365 ecosystem to monitor, alert, and stop potential transmission of sensitive data.

While this is one area that enables a certain level of control by the technical and end-user communities, there are others that require a "best we can" approach. As outlined in the articles by our cybersecurity analysts Ed and Vong, vulnerabilities within the infrastructure are quickly becoming the houseguest that will never leave. As such, the guardians of the infrastructure have to analyze which can stay without causing too much damage and we, as the non-technical end-user, must put our trust in the technical team to make these decisions in order to protect our data. However, in a true "Zero Trust Security" mindset, it is on the end-user to continue to educate themselves about solid data-security and data-privacy practices and hold our organizations accountable to make the right decisions.

Security is everyone's responsibility.

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