Human Firewall: Security Awareness

Building a strong security culture through people-focused protection

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Course Overview

A practical course focused on building strong security awareness within organizations, recognizing that people are both the strongest and weakest links in the security chain. This 4-week program provides the knowledge and skills needed to develop and implement effective security awareness programs, recognize common attack vectors, and foster a security-first mindset throughout the organization.

Next Cohort

- Start Date: August 15th, 2026
- Format: Available in instructor-led online, self-paced, and in-person formats
- Prerequisites: No technical prerequisites; designed for all organizational roles

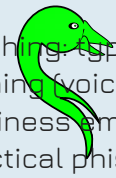
Course Curriculum

Module 1: Security Awareness Fundamentals (Week 1)

- The human element in security: strengths and vulnerabilities
- Psychology of security decisions and behavior
- Current threat landscape and attack trends
- Security awareness program components and best practices
- Building a security culture: challenges and success factors
- Metrics and measurement for security awareness

Module 2: Social Engineering and Phishing Defense (Week 1-2)

- Social engineering tactics and techniques



- Phishing: types, indicators, and prevention
- Vishing (voice phishing) and smishing (SMS phishing)
- Business email compromise and executive impersonation
- Practical phishing identification exercises
- Reporting mechanisms and response procedures
- Building an effective anti-phishing program

Module 3: Personal Security Practices (Week 2-3)

- Password management and authentication best practices
- Multi-factor authentication implementation
- Safe browsing and email habits
- Mobile device security: BYOD and company-issued
- Remote work security considerations
- Physical security awareness and social engineering
- Personal data protection and privacy

Module 4: Security Awareness Program Development (Week 3-4)

- Security awareness program frameworks
- Audience analysis and content customization
- Engaging training techniques and materials
- Communication strategies for security messages
- Building security champions networks
- Continuous reinforcement and microlearning
- Gamification and incentive programs
- Measuring program effectiveness and ROI

Module 5: Incident Response for Everyone (Week 4)

- Security incident identification and reporting
- Employee roles in the incident response process
- Practical incident response procedures
- Communication during security incidents
- Post-incident learning and improvement
- Tabletop exercises and simulations
- Building resilience through preparation

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Explain how human behavior impacts security and identify common psychological factors
- Recognize and respond appropriately to social engineering attacks including phishing
- Implement strong personal security practices across devices and environments
- Design, implement, and measure effective security awareness programs
- Develop engaging security communications and training materials
- Foster a positive security culture within organizations
- Effectively involve employees in the incident response process
- Measure the impact and ROI of security awareness initiatives

Instructors

Our instructors are experienced security awareness professionals with backgrounds in cybersecurity, human behavior, and organizational development, bringing a comprehensive approach to building human security defenses.

Assessment and Certification

- Interactive security scenario assessments
- Phishing identification exercises
- Security awareness program planning project
- Training content development assignment
- Security culture assessment case study
- Final capstone project: Comprehensive awareness program design
- Industry-recognized course completion certificate

Resources

- Comprehensive course materials and reference guides
- Templates for security awareness program planning
- Sample phishing simulations and awareness materials
- Security communication examples and templates
- Community forum for discussion and idea sharing
- Office hours with instructors for personalized support

Download

Contact

Interested in enrolling or have questions about this course?

- Email: office@chen.ist
- Phone: Schedule a call to discuss your goals
- Web: Book a free consultation