Montana State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)

Network Monitoring Protection Service Information

Detailed Explanation of Available Network Traffic Monitoring Services

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Network Traffic Monitoring (NTM). The Montana Cybersecurity Planning Committee (MT-CPC) has limited the SLCGP solely to the funding of the CIS Albert Sensor NTM service option. However, the MT-CPC endorses the no-cost PISCES NTM option (particularly as a suitable option for local government organizations that do not have the fiscal resources to purchase and sustain the Albert Sensor option).

Option 1. CIS Albert Sensor Network Traffic Monitoring Service

- **a.** CIS Albert Sensors are the only NTM service option that the SLCGP will fund (pricing in Illustration 1).
- **b.** The CIS Albert Sensor Network Monitoring and Management Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) provides critical cyber incident early warning and reaction time to county governments, critical infrastructure, election, and emergency services, city governments, and school districts.
- **c.** A fee-based **MS-ISAC membership** is required for this service (pricing information in Illustration 2).

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Illustration 1 - CIS Alber Sensor Pricing:

This annual fee covers both the management and monitoring of Albert. CIS also offers a turnkey solution, which includes hardware.

Pricing is based on average internet connection utilization. A one-time initiation fee of $**950** per sensor applies:

Customer already has hardware				**Customer needs hardware**		
Average Utilization (Bytes)	Annual Fee	Per Month Fee	Per Day Fee	Annual Fee	Per Month Fee	Per Day Fee
0 – 100 M	$11,160	930	<$31	$13,560	$1,130	<$38
101 MB – 1 G	$14,400	1,200	<$40	$16,800	$1,400	<$47
1.01 G – 5 G	$26,400	2,200	<$73	$30,000	$2,500	<$83
5.01+ G **Please contact services@cissecurity.org for details**						

Illustration 2- MS-ISAC Single-Organization Membership Pricing:

MS-ISAC pricing tiers are based on the total annual operating budget of the organization you intend to cover with your Single-Organization Membership. All benefits of MS-ISAC membership are available to all members across all tiers**.**

	Tier 1	**Tier 2**	**Tier 3**	**Tier 4**	**Tier 5**
Annual Operating Budget	<$25 Million	$25 - $100 Million	$100 - $250 Million	$250 Million - $1 Billion	>$1 Billion
Current Annual Pricing	$1,495	$3,495	$9,995	$17,995	$29,995

If you would like to apply for Albert Sensor Network Traffic Monitoring cybersecurity protection services through the SLCGP, please contact:

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Center for Cybersecurity Workforce and Rural Policy
Missoula College | 1205 E. Broadway | Missoula, MT 59802
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Alternate Option - PISCES (Public Infrastructure Security Cyber Education System) Network Traffic Monitoring Service.

PISCES is a no-cost cybersecurity program designed for Montana's small public-sector organizations (typically organizations with 150 or fewer employees). It provides local governments with network threat monitoring while giving University of Montana cybersecurity students hands-on experience in real-world Security Operations Center (SOC) functions.

The Challenge

- Small Communities can't afford professional cybersecurity analysis
- Students need real-world, hands-on experience to enter the cybersecurity workforce
- Universities & colleges require structured curriculum and data-sharing agreements to provide that experience

How PISCES Helps

- Partners with universities to train students as cyber analysts
- Provides affordable cybersecurity monitoring for small communities
- It gives students practical experience by detecting network traffic anomalies and routes findings through a community liaison to local partners and the state fusion center

a. Through PISCES, University of Montana and Missoula College cybersecurity students gain practical skills in SOC operations, metadata monitoring, threat detection and analysis, and incident response escalation.

b. Participating organizations receive a network sensor that transmits metadata to UM's SOC. There, trained students monitor the data in real-time, identifying anomalies and comparing activity against a continuously updated threat database.

If you are interested in developing and supporting Montana's future technical workforce, while receiving threat monitoring services, contact Joe Hodgson at joseph.hodgson@mso.umt.edu or (406) 243 – 7858. This program and its no-cost services do not expire.