

Video transcript:

Cybersecurity: Cloud Computing Products

About this audit

Cyber threats in Victoria are real and growing. Successful attacks have seriously disrupted critical public services.

In this audit we assessed how different public sector agencies manage cybersecurity.

We looked at 5 government departments and 5 other agencies, including the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner, Cenitex, a health agency, a local council and a water entity.

We focused on:

- their Microsoft 365 cloud-based controls for identity and devices
- and how they oversee services delivered by third-party providers, including Cenitex.

We also assessed how central government agencies address cybersecurity risks from a whole-of-government perspective.

Some background

The cloud is a network of remote servers that providers, like Microsoft, use to supply services and store data.

The cloud can give extra protection to users because large providers have advanced cybersecurity capabilities.

For example, Microsoft analyses 43 trillion signals every day to identify cybersecurity risks.

What we concluded

We concluded that the audited agencies can do more to improve their cybersecurity.

We identified 3 key reasons for this.

Finding 1

First, agencies haven't set up effective Microsoft 365 cloud-based identity and device controls.

None of the audited agencies have fully set up all the controls we assessed, which leaves gaps in their cybersecurity.

Finding 2

Second, not all agencies properly understand and oversee cybersecurity services delivered by third-party providers.

For example, some agencies share their Microsoft 365 products. But they're unclear about who is responsible for controls.

This can lead to gaps in their cybersecurity defences.

Finding 3

Our third finding is about the opportunity for the public sector to take a coordinated whole-of-government approach to cybersecurity.

By using its size and economy of scale more efficiently, the public sector could set up and maintain strong cybersecurity controls using up-to-date knowledge and skills.

What we recommended

To address these issues and opportunities we made:

- one recommendation to both the Department of Government Services and the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner
- one recommendation to the Department of Government Services
- and 5 to all audited agencies.

More information

To download our full report or a transcript of this video please see our website.