



## 9. Enhance IT Security

*Description of issue and how recommending the agency's request furthers the agency's mandates:* Protecting our IT infrastructure against a cyber-attack requires continuous investment. Due to the ever-changing threat landscape, IT security is a race without a finish line, and will require ongoing vigilance, review and resources.

These threats are not hypothetical in Arizona. In 2016, the voter registration database was hacked. Since 2020, AZSOS has faced nearly constant cyber threats, such as potential for malicious hacking by foreign nation-state enemies.

AZSOS must secure its IT systems from cybersecurity threats by investing in multiple ways including protecting from new and more virulent email attacks and having the ability to identify, analyze, and respond to security threats.

*Proposal:* Appropriate \$325,000 from the state general fund and one FTE in FY2026 and thereafter to help secure critical AZSOS IT infrastructure

*Alternatives considered and reasons for rejection:* N/A

*Impact of not funding this fiscal year:* N/A

*Statutory reference:* N/A

*Equipment to be purchased:* N/A

*Classification of new positions:*

- Sr. Security Analyst.

*Annualization:* \$325,000