

DATE: February 21, 2022
BULLETIN: 2022-KDCU-CUB-4
TO: Kansas Chartered Credit Unions
SUBJECT: Automated Cybersecurity Evaluation Toolbox

AUTOMATED CYBERSECURITY EVALUATION TOOLBOX (ACET)

In December 2021, the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) issued [Letter to Credit Unions No. 21-CU-15](#) regarding the Automated Cybersecurity Evaluation Toolbox (ACET). As indicated in the [2022 Supervisory Priorities](#), cybersecurity remains at the top of the list.

The ACET is designed to assist credit unions in understanding their level of cybersecurity preparedness. It is a no-cost application, available for [download](#), allowing the credit union to conduct a cybersecurity self-assessment. Regardless of size or complexity, this can be used to determine preparedness against industry standards and best practices for financial institutions.

The tool also includes practices found in the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) IT Examination Handbook, regulatory guidance and leading industry standards such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework.

By conducting regular assessments – checking your cyber hygiene – credit unions are better prepared to make risk-based security management decisions. Credit unions are not required to use the ACET, but it can provide insight into what a credit union might consider implementing to improve its cybersecurity position.

Included with the Letter is a [Frequently Asked Questions on the ACET](#) resource, e.g., the value to the credit union for using the ACET. Using this assessment will allow the credit union to evaluate whether its cybersecurity preparedness is aligned with its risks and then determining needed risk management practices and controls.

There are many resources available for cyber-related information. The Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) recently updated its [“Known Exploited Vulnerabilities Catalog”](#) and also offers [email updates](#). Both [CISA](#) and [NCUA](#) offer cybersecurity resource pages.

The threat is real. But there are abundant resources, including [KDCU Bulletins](#), from which credit unions can gather helpful information.

NOTE: In accordance with Governor Laura Kelly’s [guidance](#), KDCU Administrator [Vickie Hurt](#) continues to review the feasibility of resuming the on-site examination program. This is being done in coordination with the NCUA.