

Cybersecurity Glossary

Anti-virus software

Antivirus software is a type of software that is used to scan and remove viruses from a computer.

Application(s)

An application is a small software program that runs on your computer and accomplishes one specific task.

Breach

A breach is, generally, an impermissible use or disclosure under the Privacy Rule that compromises the security or privacy of the protected health information such that the use or disclosure poses a significant risk of financial, reputational, or other harm to the affected individual.

CE

Covered Entity (a term defined by the HIPAA Privacy Rule at 45 C.F.R. sec. 160.103)

Cybersecurity

Broad term referring to the practice of keeping computers and electronic information safe and secure.

EHR

Electronic Health Record

Encrypted

Method of transforming data into a form that conceals its original meaning in order to prevent it from being known or used by others.

Firewall

Firewall originally referred to fireproof walls designed to prevent the spread of fire from one room or building to the next. In the computer world these protective separators prevent the spread of viruses within a computer.

Hardware

Hardware refers to the physical parts of a computer and related devices.

HHS

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

HIPAA

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-191) requires that covered entities apply appropriate administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to protect the privacy and security of protected health information.

HITECH Breach Notification Rule

Regulations that implement provisions in the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, part of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). These regulations require entities covered by HIPAA and their business associates to provide notification following a breach of unsecured PHI.

Install

Putting software on your computer in order to use it. You can install software from a CD or DVD, an external hard drive, from a networked computer, or download from the Internet.

LAEA approach

Listen, Acknowledge, Explain, Apologize

Malware

Stands for **malicious software** which is designed to damage or do other unwanted actions to another unsuspecting computer.

Media

Consumer electronic devices that store or play digital files such as audio, images, video, documents, etc. Media can include laptop hard drives or flash USB drives, for example.

Mobile device

Broad term for any computer that is hand-held or otherwise small enough to be portable and used on the go (such as laptop computers, tablet computers, smart phones, etc.)

Network

Two or more computers are connected to each other and are called a network. A network lets users share files and information.

ONC

Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology

PHI

Protected Health Information (a term defined by the HIPAA Privacy Rule at 45 C.F.R. sec.160.103)

Smart phone

A smartphone is a mobile phone that do things other than making phone calls and sending text messages such as taking photos, playing videos, managing e-mail, and surfing the Web.

Software

Software is a general term that describes computer programs including applications and scripts.

Spam

Spam refers to junk e-mail or irrelevant postings to a newsgroup or bulletin board that come to your Inbox unsolicited.

Tablet computer

A tablet, or tablet PC, is a portable computer (smaller than a laptop) that uses a touchscreen as its primary input device.

USB drive/device

A tablet, or tablet PC, is a portable computer (smaller than a laptop) that uses a touchscreen as its primary input device.

USB port

Universal Serial Bus is the most common type of connection found on most computers.

Virus (computer)

Like a biological virus, a computer virus is a small program that can infect your files and prevent proper functioning of your system (sometimes permanently).

WEP

Wired Equivalent Privacy is a security protocol for Wi-Fi networks.

Wi-Fi

Wireless Fidelity refers to networking that allows computers and other devices to communicate over a wireless signal.