



CCIRC Canadian Cyber Incident Response Centre

BUILDING A **SAFE AND RESILIENT CANADA**

Top 4 Strategies to Mitigate Targeted Cyber Intrusions

The Government of Canada’s Canadian Cyber Incident Response Centre ([CCIRC](#)) recommends that network administrators implement the following four mitigation strategies, which can prevent as much as 85% of targeted cyber attacks:

Ranking	Mitigation Strategy	Rationale
1	Use application whitelisting to help prevent malicious software and unapproved programs from running.	Application whitelisting is one of the best security strategies as it allows only specified programs to run, while blocking all others, including malicious software.
2	Patch applications such as Java, PDF viewers, Flash, web browsers and Microsoft Office.	Vulnerable applications and operating systems are the target of most attacks. Ensuring these are patched with the latest updates greatly reduces the number of exploitable entry points available to an attacker.
3	Patch operating system vulnerabilities.	
4	Restrict administrative privileges to operating systems and applications based on user duties.	Restricting these privileges may prevent malware from running or limit its capability to spread through the network.

Reporting a cyber security incident

Recognizing that cyber security is a shared responsibility which can be enhanced through information sharing, Canadian critical infrastructure organizations are encouraged to partner with and report cyber security incidents to CCIRC at cyber-incident@ps-sp.gc.ca.