

CISA 2015: What It Is And Why It Matters

What Is CISA 2015?

The **Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (CISA 2015)**

was passed by Congress to enable voluntary threat information sharing between private companies and the federal government.

The law created **liability protections and other safeguards** to encourage information sharing for cybersecurity purposes.

Why It's Important:

CISA 2015 is more than a legal tool — it's a foundational pillar of U.S. cybersecurity:

- It helps bridge the **visibility gap**: many critical infrastructure operators are in the private sector, and their threat data often goes unseen by government defenders.
- It facilitates **faster, real-time cooperation** across sectors, enabling shared detection and mitigation of emerging threats.
- It gives private **organizations confidence to share threat signals** not only with government but also other private entities without fear of lawsuits over anti-trust, breach of privacy, or regulatory exposures.

What Happens Now That CISA 2015 Has Expired?

RISK		IMPACT
Erosion of legal protections	➡	The liability safe harbors, antitrust shields, and disclosure exemptions will start to vanish.
Drop in threat sharing	➡	Some experts warn that the flow of shared indicators will drop significantly without the legal certainty CISA provides.
Uncertainty for defenders	➡	Legal teams could veto sharing by default due to legal ambiguity, shifting decisions away from CISOs.
Weakened collective defense	➡	Without cooperation, gaps in visibility could open.
Erosion of trust & deterrence	➡	The expiration sends signals to adversaries about U.S. retreat from coordinated cyber defense

Considerations for Reauthorization

- **Clean extension vs. rewrite**: Congress can either extend CISA as-is or amend it to clarify certain provisions.
- **Rename consideration**: Congress could consider renaming the law to help prevent confusion or association with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

Renewing CISA 2015 isn't just procedural; it's an urgent matter of national security.

Without congressional action, we risk undermining the cooperative fabric that helps enable cyber resilience.

Resources:

- <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/IFI2959>
- <https://cyberscoop.com/cisa-2015-expiration-industry-warning-threat-information-sharing/>
- <https://www.centerforcybersecuritypolicy.org/insights-and-research/the-clocks-ticking-why-cisa-2015-must-be-renewed-now>
- <https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Cybersecurity%2520Information%2520Sharing%2520Act%2520of%25202015.pdf>