

A national cyber security strategy

The Government is presenting a national strategy for developing and enhancing cyber security in Sweden. The strategy outlines objectives in six priority areas and will help to create the long-term conditions for all stakeholders in society to work effectively on cyber security, and raise the level of awareness and knowledge throughout society.

Digital transformation is a global phenomenon, impacting basically every part of society. It presents major opportunities, but risks too, from individual risks to well-planned and targeted attacks against essential public services. How we manage the risks inherent in digital transformation has a significant impact on our ability to maintain and enhance both our prosperity and our security.

The cyber security strategy is based on the objectives for Sweden's security: protecting the lives and health of the population, the functioning of society, and our capacity to uphold fundamental values such as democracy, the rule of law and human rights and freedoms.¹ The strategy is also based on the overall IT policy objective – for Sweden to become the world leader in harnessing the opportunities of digital transformation.²

Six strategic priorities

To promote Sweden's security and IT policy objectives, the Government believes there are six primary areas in society's cyber security that must be given priority.

Securing a systematic and comprehensive approach in cyber security efforts

Cyber security concerns the whole of society and everyone needs to take responsibility. We must therefore enhance collaboration and cyber security information sharing and improve the conditions for pursuing systematic cyber security efforts in a more integrated and coordinated manner.

Enhancing network, product and system security

Society today is dependent on electronic communication, which accordingly must be effective, secure and robust, while

also meeting user needs. Access to secure data encryption systems for IT and communications solutions must also meet society's needs, and enhanced security is required in industrial information and control systems that control and monitor the distribution of electricity and supply of drinking water, for example.

Enhancing capability to prevent, detect and manage cyberattacks and other IT incidents

Increased collaboration and planning, and adequate technical resources are required to mitigate the consequences of cyberattacks and other IT incidents. For activities of the highest importance to Sweden's security – including systems vital to total defence – an advanced cyber defence must be in place that includes enhanced military capability to respond to and handle an attack by an advanced opponent in cyberspace.

Increasing the possibility of preventing and combating cybercrime

The number of reported cybercrimes is rising sharply. The ability to prevent and combat these crimes must be strengthened through adapted legislation, well-developed expertise and organisational structures, and enhanced international cooperation. More stakeholders, beyond law enforcement authorities, need to actively take part in preventive efforts.

Increasing knowledge and promoting expertise

Greater knowledge and a broader understanding of cyber security in society are necessary to focus on the most urgent se-

curity needs. Higher education, research and development, and regular training activities are also crucial in this area.

Enhancing international cooperation

Tackling cyber security challenges requires enhanced international cooperation, based on international law and the objective of a global, accessible, open and robust internet characterised by freedom and respect for human rights.

Follow-up of the strategy

The strategy will be followed up through specific instructions to relevant government agencies to ensure the objectives are

achieved. Technological developments and security threats mean that cyber security must adapt and evolve at a rapid pace. The strategy must therefore be flexible to ensure it can be adapted to rapidly evolving international developments, and is accordingly not timetabled. The Government will prioritise the implementation of the strategy and closely monitor developments in the area.

1. Government Bill 2008/09:140, Committee Report 2008/09:FöU10, Riksdag Communication 2008/09:292
2. Government Bill 2011/12:1, Committee Report 2011/12:TU1, Riksdag Communication 2011/12:87

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