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From the **Towerwall** Team

As we close out the year, cybersecurity leaders are facing mounting pressures: tighter compliance deadlines, escalating vulnerabilities, and the need for stronger, more proactive security programs.

This month's newsletter highlights the achievements shaping our community, the threats that demand immediate attention, and the practical steps organizations can take to **stay secure** through the holiday season and into 2026.

News Spotlight

Janelle Drolet named **Emerging Leader**



We're proud to share that **MetroWest Chamber of Commerce** has selected **Janelle Drolet** as its **2025 Emerging Leader**; recognizing her outstanding professional growth, community impact, and leadership in cybersecurity education.

As Towerwall's VP of Sales and Operations, Janelle has driven **20% revenue growth** while advancing cybersecurity best practices through **incident preparedness, third-party risk management, and executive awareness training**. Beyond her role at Towerwall, she's been instrumental

in the success of the **Information Security Summit**, helping raise over [\\$72,500 in scholarships](#) for MassBay students pursuing cybersecurity careers.

Janelle's commitment to mentorship and inclusion shines through her work with **Women in Technology (WIT)** and **Women in Cybersecurity (WiCyS)**, as well as her regular contributions to the **Worcester Business Journal**. Her leadership continues to inspire a new generation of professionals, especially women entering the cybersecurity field.

"Janelle was nominated for the Emerging Leader award this year, and through all her accomplishments in growing Towerwall and the educational scholarships, she has been selected as this year's Emerging Leader."

[Read more about the MetroWest Chamber of Commerce Annual Gala and Awards](#)

Trending Now

Why Regular Risk Assessments Matter More Than Ever

Cyber risks are evolving at a pace that static annual assessments simply can't match. Attacks are faster, vulnerabilities are more complex, and organizations face higher pressure to prove due diligence.

Regular risk assessments help organizations:

- Identify vulnerabilities before attackers do
- Ensure controls match current threat levels
- Maintain compliance with frameworks like CMMC, GLBA, HIPAA, and NIST
- Prioritize remediation with real, actionable insights
- Strengthen board-level confidence and cyber readiness

A risk assessment isn't just a requirement; it's one of the most effective tools to reduce organizational risk, eliminate blind spots, and reinforce operational resilience.

If you haven't reviewed your environment since early 2025, [it's time](#).

[Check Out Our Process](#)

Valuable Insight:

What's Trending in Cybersecurity Right Now

Recent industry updates point to a troubling but important pattern: attackers are moving faster than ever, especially when newly discovered vulnerabilities are involved.

One of the most discussed developments this month is the **active exploitation of a critical Windows Server Update Services (WSUS) vulnerability (CVE-2025-59287)**. With a **CVSS score of 9.8** and confirmed attacks reported since late October, organizations are being urged by both **CISA and Microsoft** to take immediate action.

Why this matters:

- Attackers are shifting to rapid exploitation within days of disclosure
- Vulnerabilities in widely deployed tools create large-scale exposure

- Patch management is becoming a top priority for maintaining security posture
- Organizations must ensure they have the right patching tools and response processes in place

The takeaway:

Proactive patching and continuous vulnerability monitoring are now **essential, not optional, as we head into 2026.**



Cybersecurity News

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Case Study: **Long's Jewelers — 26 Years of Trusted Partnership**

The holiday season is the busiest and most targeted time of year for retail organizations. For Long's Jewelers, staying secure during peak operations requires a partner who understands the pace, pressure, and stakes.

For more than **26 years**, **Towerwall** has been that partner.

Ron Gove, IT Director at Long's, shares how the partnership has grown from early firewall support to a full cybersecurity program that scales with their business:

"Towerwall isn't just another vendor; they're an extension of our team. They know our culture, our budget, and how we operate. That trust is invaluable."

Towerwall's vCISO program now provides the leadership, monitoring, and strategic cybersecurity guidance Long's needs to stay protected during their highest-traffic season.

For retail teams preparing for the holidays:

A trusted partner can make the difference between a secure, profitable season and a disruptive incident.

[Read the full case study](#)



Compliance Update: CMMC Enforcement Begins

CMMC requirements are officially moving into enforcement, and key deadlines are quickly approaching:

✓ Level 1

Organizations handling **Federal Contract Information (FCI)**
Self-assessment due: **November 10**

✓ Level 2

Organizations handling **Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI)**.
Third-party assessments required by **November 10** or **November 26**,
depending on contract updates.

This shift means compliance is no longer a future requirement, but it's active and enforceable today. If your organization hasn't begun the process, now is the **critical time to act**.

Events & Resources

BrightTalk Risk & Compliance Series Launched (11/6)

Towerwall kicked off the new **BrightTalk** series with a panel covering:

- GLBA
- CMMC
- HIPAA
- Who manages compliance, how requirements differ, and when controls must be implemented

[Watch the replay now!](#)

Just Launched: **Greg's Session on how to sell your information security program to the C-Suite.**

Greg recently joined the series to have a frank discussion on dealing with the challenges of bridging the communication gaps between information security and business speak.

[Catch the session on BrightTalk](#)

Stay Resilient

As cyber pressures rise heading into year-end, the right partnership can help you stay ahead of threats, compliance deadlines, and operational risks.

[Book a consultation with Towerwall](#)

[Explore our Resource Center](#)

About Towerwall

Towerwall is a **trusted, woman-owned information security partner** serving organizations across industries including healthcare, retail, education, technology, and financial services. For **over 30 years**, our mission has been to help organizations operationalize security, achieve compliance, and protect what matters most.



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