

## **CISA Resignations Lead to Cybersecurity Concerns**

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The Trump administration sent employees at the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) deferred resignation offers, raising concerns about cybersecurity. Similar resignation offers directed towards intelligence officers from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the National Security Agency has sparked fear among cybersecurity experts. Established by President Trump in 2018, CISA played a key part in discovering and responding to the "Salt Typhoon" espionage campaign by Chinese state-sponsored hackers. Despite its role in national security, Kristi Noem, President Trump's pick to lead DHS, has vowed to shrink the agency.

After being initially excluded from deferred resignation offers, CISA employees were given the offers with just hours to decide. The offers are part of the "Fork in the Road" program, which mirrors language from Elon Musk's approach after he acquired X (formerly known as Twitter). Musk, who leads the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), has helped to create the program. DOGE staffers are now demanding access to files and systems across federal agencies, leading to widespread protest. Cybersecurity employees disagree with the level of access granted to DOGE staffers and fear the potential loss of experienced experts.

Shortly after President Trump's second inauguration, his administration removed all members of DHS's advisory boards, including the CISA cybersecurity advisory committee, raising concerns about the country's ability to defend critical infrastructure. Concurrently, all staffers at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) were put on administrative leave. USAID's digital strategy, which the Heritage Foundation once promoted for endorsing safe 5G access and combating Beijing's efforts to stifle democracy, has been taken offline, signaling a change in President Trump's strategy. Initially, President Trump explained the mission of CISA as "vital" because of America's constant threat of cybersecurity breaches. However, the Trump administration's recent acts imply its focus is shifting.

**For more information, see the full article [here](#).**