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FLA Law and Compliance Division  
webinar.**

**We will begin momentarily.**

# Cleared for Risk

## Cyber, Privacy & AI Threats Facing the Derivatives Industry

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*Cyber threats are no longer just an IT problem — they're a clearing risk, a regulatory risk, and a boardroom risk.*

Presented at the Futures Industry Association (FIA)

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# Session Overview



## ION Markets Attack & Lessons

Case study: when a single vendor takes down an industry



## Evolving Threat Landscape

AI-enabled adversaries targeting derivatives markets



## Systemic Risk & 24/7 Trading

Why cyber is a clearing problem



## CFTC, NFA & SEC Cyber Rules

Your primary regulators on cybersecurity



## DOJ Bulk Data & Global Privacy

Cross-border data rules for derivatives firms



## AI Framework & Vendor Risk

Governance for trading ecosystems



## Incident Response & Board Governance



## FIA Taskforce & Key Takeaways

All content from the three working shared markets, FCMs, clearinghouses, and market infrastructure providers. Our industry playbook for resilience

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## Co-Chair, Data Privacy and Cybersecurity Practice

Chair, Chicago Litigation Department

- Chambers-ranked cybersecurity, privacy, class action, and data protection trial lawyer
- Litigated data breach class actions, VPPA, BIPA, CIPA, and pixel/tracking technology cases
- Advises on the intersection of AI, data privacy, and cybersecurity, including data governance and algorithmic bias
- Guided clients through data breaches affecting tens of millions of individuals
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CIPP/US (IAPP) | Chambers Global & Chambers USA Ranked

- Two decades advising companies, boards, and executives on privacy and cybersecurity regulation, enforcement, and litigation
- Crisis management leader: data breach response, SEC cybersecurity compliance, regulatory investigations, AI/biometrics/children's privacy
- *Chambers describes her as "incredibly responsive and super knowledgeable"*
- Represents clients in securities class actions, derivative suits, and consumer class actions
- Awards: Legal 500 Cyber Law, Lawdragon 500, Cybersecurity Docket Incident Response, Texas Trailblazer

# When a Single Vendor Goes Down

The ION Markets Ransomware Attack — January 31, 2023

700+

Individuals joined FIA's crisis calls within one week

2 wks

Recovery time for some  
impacted clearing firms

3+ wks

CFTC Commitment of  
Traders report delayed

- LockBit ransomware hit ION Markets, a third-party provider of middle- and back-office products embedded in clearing workflows at dozens of firms globally
- Trade processing disrupted across Europe, Asia-Pacific, and the Americas; firms manually reconstructed trading records
- FIA held 4 conference calls on day one alone; notified CFTC, Bank of England, BaFin, AMF, Finansinspektionen
- Key lesson: the entire exchange-traded and cleared derivatives ecosystem is only as strong as its most critical third-party service provider
- Led directly to FIA's Cyber Risk Taskforce and six recommendations for strengthening industry resilience

# The Evolving Threat Landscape for Derivatives Markets

**89%**

YoY increase in AI-enabled  
adversary operations

**29 min**

Average eCrime breakout  
time (fastest: 27 sec)

**82%**

Of 2025 detections were  
malware-free

- Financial services is the 4th most-targeted sector (12% of all activity); 43% spike in hands-on-keyboard intrusions against financial institutions
- Access broker activity surged 50% YoY; 423 financial firms appeared on dedicated leak sites (+27% YoY)
- For FCMs and clearing firms: a breach that compromises trade processing, margin calculations, or customer segregated funds is not just a data breach — it's a market integrity event
- Attackers log in with valid credentials, they don't hack in — identity-based intrusions dominate: 5 of top 10 MITRE ATT&CK tactics are identity-based

# Systemic Risk: Why Cyber Is a Clearing Problem

## Interconnected Ecosystem

- Exchanges → CCPs → clearing members → end clients all depend on shared infrastructure
- A ransomware attack on a single vendor (as ION showed) can disrupt settlement, margin calls, position management, and regulatory reporting across jurisdictions
- FIA created an Industry Resilience Committee (IRC) of clearing firms, vendors, exchanges, and CCPs to address systemic risks

## Emerging Threat Vectors

**\$2.02B**

in digital assets stolen in 2025 by North Korean actors (51% YoY increase)

- FAMOUS CHOLLIMA doubled operations using AI-generated identities to infiltrate crypto exchanges and fintech
- 35% of cloud incidents from valid account abuse
- AI infrastructure as attack surface: 90+ orgs exploited via prompt injection

# CFTC & NFA: Cyber Requirements for Derivatives Firms

## *Your Primary Regulators on Cyber*

### **CFTC Rule 160.30**

System safeguards for intermediaries — applies to FCMs, swap dealers, major swap participants. Requires information security protections for customer data.

### **Proposed ORF (Dec 2023)**

Would require FCMs, SDs, and MSPs to establish an Operational Resilience Framework covering: (1) IT security, (2) third-party relationships, (3) emergencies and disruptions.

### **CFTC Parts 38 & 39**

System safeguards for DCMs (exchanges) and DCOs (clearinghouses): cybersecurity testing, vulnerability assessment, incident response.

### **NFA Requirements**

Written information security program; risk assessment; incident response plan; employee training; vendor oversight. Applies to all NFA member firms.

*These are the rules that directly govern FIA members as FCMs, exchanges, and clearinghouses*

# SEC Cyber-Incident Disclosure: When It Applies to You

Not all FIA members are SEC registrants — but many are: publicly traded exchanges (CME, ICE, Cboe), clearing firms that are also registered broker-dealers, and public holding companies

**60%**

Increase in disclosed  
cyber incidents

**78%**

Disclosures within  
8 days of discovery

**1 in 4**

Breaches from  
third-party vendors

- Item 1.05 Form 8-K: material incidents disclosed within 4 business days of materiality determination
- Item 106 Reg S-K: annual disclosure of cybersecurity risk management, governance, and board oversight
- Threat actors used SEC rules as extortion tactic — filing whistleblower reports about victims' failure to disclose
- Even non-public FIA members should track these rules: your public counterparties' disclosure obligations affect you

# DOJ Bulk Data Transfer Rules: Cross-Border Impact

EO 14117: Preventing foreign adversary access to Americans' bulk sensitive personal data | Final Rule effective April 8, 2025

## Countries of Concern

China (incl. HK, Macau) | Cuba | Iran  
North Korea | Russia | Venezuela

## Why This Matters for Derivatives Firms

- FCMs and clearing firms handle massive volumes of customer financial data
- Firms with offshore processing, foreign affiliates in countries of concern, or cross-border vendor relationships must assess covered transactions
- Exception certain financial services transactions 28 CFR 202.505

## Transaction Types

**Prohibited: data brokerage with countries of concern;  
bulk human 'omic data**

Restricted: vendor, employment, and investment agreements (permitted only if CISA security requirements met)

Covered data: personal identifiers, financial data, geolocation, health data, biometric identifiers

# DOJ Bulk Data: Compliance for Derivatives Firms

**Apr 8, 2025**

Most provisions  
effective

**Jul 8, 2025**

90-day leniency  
period expired

**Oct 6, 2025**

Audit, due diligence,  
recordkeeping

**Penalties: Civil fines up to \$368,136/violation or 2x transaction value | Criminal: up to \$1M and/or 20 years**

- Annual audit and officer certification required for restricted transactions
- Practical challenges for FCMs: mapping data flows across prime brokerage, clearing, and settlement; determining whether aggregate 12-month transfers meet bulk thresholds
- Must contractually prohibit onward transfer of data to countries of concern with all foreign vendor counterparties
- Full and accurate records of all covered data transactions required

# State & International Data Privacy: The Patchwork Problem

20+

U.S. states with comprehensive consumer privacy laws

- FIA members collecting customer data across multiple states face a compliance matrix: different notice, consent, and opt-out requirements
- Many state laws include automated decision-making and profiling provisions — affecting algorithmic trading and risk tools

## GDPR

Fines up to €20M or 4% revenue; strong enforcement of AI uses; applies to FIA members with EU operations or clients

## EU DORA

Effective Jan 2025. Multi-stage incident reporting: initial notification within 4 hours of classifying as major (or 24 hours from detection); intermediate report within 72 hours; final report within 1 month. Impacts EU exchanges, CCPs, clearing firms, and critical ICT service providers.

## Regulation S-P

Safeguarding nonpublic personal information — applies to broker-dealers and investment advisers (incl. dually-registered FCMs)

*FIA has urged the European Commission to clarify that financial services are not “ICT services” under DORA*

# AI-Driven Decision-Making: Regulatory Framework for Derivatives

## CFTC Position

FIA urged “technology-neutral” approach (joined by CME, ICE, FIA PTG); existing rules provide needed controls; new AI-specific rules may not be necessary

## SEC Exams (FY 2026)

Focused on AI technologies, automated tools, trading algorithms — affects dually-registered FCMs and public exchange operators

## FINRA (Dual Registrants)

2026 Annual Oversight Report: GenAI section; AI agents as emerging trend (Jan 2026); risks: autonomy, auditability, data sensitivity

## AI in Derivatives Today

Algorithmic trading, risk modeling, margin optimization, surveillance, AML detection, client onboarding — all subject to existing supervisory requirements

**Key principle: AI deployed in clearing or trading systems must meet existing supervisory, risk management, and system safeguard requirements — there is no “AI exception”**

# Third-Party Vendor Risk in Trading Ecosystems

The ION attack proved that third-party risk is THE defining cybersecurity challenge for cleared derivatives markets

- Many participants rely on third parties for mission-critical services: market data, trade processing, reconciliation, collateral management, risk calculations
- FIA Taskforce Recommendation #5: standardize third-party risk assessment questionnaires; calibrate risk management to type of service and impact of disruption
- CFTC Proposed ORF: explicitly covers “third-party relationships” as one of three core risk areas
- EU DORA: establishes oversight framework for critical third-party technology service providers — may designate major trade processing vendors as “critical”
- DOJ Bulk Data Rule adds another layer: vendor agreements with foreign persons must contractually prohibit onward data transfer to countries of concern
- Exchange connectivity: member firms have independent notification obligations to exchanges when cyber incidents impact trading or communications — distinct from regulatory reporting

*“Before you sign up with a third party, conduct your due diligence — that includes financial stability, but also diligence around cyber controls, business continuity and data resilience.” — Tom Wagner, SIFMA (FIA Boca 2023)*

# Incident Response for Cleared Derivatives Markets

**29 min**

Average breakout time  
Response in minutes, not hours

**4 days**

SEC 8-K disclosure window  
for public company members

**Three R's**

FIA's framework:  
Response, Recovery, Reconnection

- Response: coping with immediate impact; CFTC/NFA require prompt notification of material cybersecurity events
- FinCEN SAR: a cyber event that facilitates or is intended to facilitate a suspicious transaction requires a Suspicious Activity Report within 30 days — FCMs have BSA/AML filing obligations that can be triggered by cyber incidents
- Exchange notifications: exchange rules independently require member firms to notify when a cyber incident impacts the firm's ability to trade or communicate with the exchange — these obligations run parallel to and are separate from regulatory reporting
- Recovery: rebuilding systems and databases; ION recovery took up to 2 weeks with manual reconstruction
- Reconnection (the hardest part): reconnecting to exchanges, CCPs, service providers; disparate attestation requirements added delay during ION incident
- Unique considerations: settlement finality, margin obligations, customer segregated funds, position management, counterparty exposure
- FIA recommends adoption of FSSCC (US) and CMORG (UK) reconnection guidelines for the derivatives industry
- *Emerging: CISA is expected to issue final guidance this month on critical infrastructure cyber incident reporting under CIRCIA — financial services firms, including clearing firms and exchanges, may be covered entities; firms should monitor for the final rule and assess applicability*

# Board-Level Governance of Cyber and AI Risk

- SEC rules: annual disclosure of board's cybersecurity oversight (for public companies)
- Delaware law: Caremark duty to monitor extends to cybersecurity oversight

## Key Questions for Boards at Clearing Firms, Exchanges, and FCMs

**1** Do we have visibility into AI use across trading, clearing, and compliance?

**2** Is cyber investment keeping pace with the 89% YoY increase in AI-enabled attacks?

**3** Have we stress-tested for a critical vendor going down (ION scenario)?

**4** Do board materials include cybersecurity metrics specific to our market infrastructure role?

**5** Are we prepared for overlapping obligations: CFTC safeguards, SEC disclosure, NFA, DORA?

**6** What steps secure our own and third-party AI tools from prompt injection?

*For FIA members: a cyber event at a clearing firm is not just a company problem — it's a market problem*

# 24/7 Trading: Operational Resilience Challenge

## *Emerging Issue for FIA Members*

*FIA (May 2025): “FIA does not support extending trading and clearing in CFTC-regulated derivatives markets to a 24/7 basis until [operational, infrastructure, risk, compliance and regulatory issues] have been systematically identified, assessed, and resolved.”*

### **No Maintenance Windows**

Today’s cybersecurity relies on scheduled windows for patching and updates — 24/7 eliminates these

### **Continuous SOC Coverage**

24/7 cyber monitoring requires staffing across all time zones

### **Zero Downtime Recovery**

During 24/7 markets, there is no downtime to recover from a cyber incident without market impact

### **Framework Requirements**

Strong cybersecurity frameworks including anomaly detection and zero-trust architectures would be required

# Regulatory Landscape: Summary Matrix

| Regulatory Area        | Key Rule/Framework                    | Applies To                                                           | Key Requirement                                                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CFTC System Safeguards | Rule 160.30<br>Parts 38, 39           | FCMs, SDs,<br>DCMs, DCOs                                             | Info security,<br>BCP, testing                                        |
| CFTC<br>Proposed ORF   | Proposed<br>Dec 2023                  | FCMs, SDs,<br>MSPs                                                   | IT security + third-party + disruption                                |
| NFA Cyber              | NFA Interpretive<br>Notices           | All NFA<br>members                                                   | Written ISSP,<br>assessment, training                                 |
| SEC Cyber Disclosure   | Item 1.05 /<br>Item 106               | Public company<br>registrants                                        | 4-day disclosure;<br>annual governance                                |
| DOJ Bulk Data          | EO 14117 /<br>28 CFR 202              | All U.S.<br>persons                                                  | Prohibit/restrict<br>transfers                                        |
| EU DORA                | Regulation<br>2022/2554               | EU financial entities<br>& critical ICT providers                    | 4-hr/24-hr initial,<br>72-hr intermediate,<br>1-month final report    |
| FinCEN SAR             | BSA / 31 CFR<br>1026.320              | FCMs,<br>broker-dealers                                              | 30-day SAR when<br>cyber facilitates<br>suspicious activity           |
| State Privacy          | 20+ state<br>laws                     | Entities collecting<br>consumer data                                 | Consumer rights,<br>automated decisions                               |
| CFTC on AI             | Technology-<br>neutral approach       | FCMs,<br>exchanges                                                   | Existing rules;<br>outcomes focus                                     |
| CISA CIRCIA            | Pending final<br>guidance (Sept 2026) | Critical infrastructure<br>(potentially incl.<br>financial services) | 72-hr incident /<br>24-hr ransom payment<br>(awaiting final guidance) |

# FIA Taskforce Recommendations

## *Your Industry Playbook for Resilience*

### **1 Form Industry Resilience Committee**

Now operational — for crisis coordination and BAU resilience planning

### **2 Connect with sector-wide groups**

FS-ISAC, FSSCC, CMORG, SIFMA for threat intelligence sharing

### **3 Review reconnection policies**

Adopt FSSCC (US) and CMORG (UK) reconnection guidelines

### **4 Establish ex-ante info sharing**

Pre-agreed procedures with exchanges, CCPs, and service providers for cyber incidents

### **5 Standardize vendor risk assessment**

Standardize questionnaires; calibrate to service type and disruption impact

### **6 Participate in cyber exercises**

Hamilton (US Treasury), Quantum Dawn (SIFMA) — incorporate derivatives scenarios

FIA Annual Disaster Recovery Exercise: 2025 test successfully completed Oct 25, 2025 | 2026 test scheduled Oct 24, 2026

# Key Takeaways & Actionable Strategies

## 1 Learn from ION

Map critical third-party dependencies; stress-test vendor outage plans

## 2 Map data for DOJ compliance

Identify covered transactions, cross-border flows, vendor relationships

## 3 Update incident response

Calibrate for 29-min breakout; practice CFTC notification and SEC 8-K

## 4 Implement AI governance

Inventory AI in trading/clearing/compliance; meet CFTC/NFA requirements

## 5 Prepare for CFTC ORF

Build framework: IT security, third-party relationships, disruption mgmt

## 6 Strengthen vendor contracts

Add cyber incident provisions, reconnection protocols, DOJ protections

## 7 Engage the board

Align governance with CFTC/SEC/NFA/DORA; include systemic risk

## 8 Join industry resilience

Engage FIA IRC, FS-ISAC; participate in disaster recovery exercises

## 9 Navigate the patchwork

Map state privacy, GDPR, DORA for EU operations

# Further Reading & Resources



FIA Taskforce on Cyber Risk — After Action Report and Findings (September 2023)



CrowdStrike 2026 Global Threat Report



Paul Hastings SEC Cybersecurity Incident Disclosure Report (December 2024)



DOJ Data Security Program Compliance Guide (April 11, 2025)



CFTC Proposed Operational Resilience Framework (December 2023)



FIA Comment Letter on 24/7 Trading and Clearing (May 2025)



EU Digital Operational Resilience Act (DORA) — Regulation 2022/2554



SEC Final Rules on Cybersecurity Disclosure (July 2023)



Paul Hastings Client Alert: DOJ Bulk Data Rules (February 13, 2025)



CISA CIRCIA — Cyber Incident Reporting for Critical Infrastructure Act (final guidance expected September 2026)

# Questions?

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