

Cyber Security: Protecting Yourself and Your Business

by Craig Buse, SEVP, CLO & COO

Cyber is as big an issue now as it's ever been, but organizations still may not be taking it as seriously as they should. The majority of cyber crimes are being committed by large multimember organizations, possibly a nation state or a criminal network. This means that crimes are becoming increasingly complex and targeted. An important thing for business owners to bear in mind is that cyber security is no longer just a technical problem. Mitigating these risks now involves communicating the scale of risks to employees across the entire organization not just the "IT Department". This could be as simple as communicating who should have access to what data inside an organization. The EY 2016-17 GISS cited that 74% of businesses say a careless employee is their top cyber vulnerability. Another way to help reduce cyber risk is to know your most valuable assets or "crown jewels". The organization's assets need mapping as well as protecting. This could mean installing discovery tools, which provide the organization with full visibility of its assets and its

relative vulnerability, enabling the management of risk exposure. The assistance of a third party for 24-7 monitoring and a layered approach of internal and external resources are also helpful ways to help reduce cyber risks. Researching and finding the right partner to help be proactive in reducing cyber risk can help combat what are now structured crime networks that are trying to interrupt legitimate businesses. Ultimately, a strong cyber risk management strategy should take account of the wider cyber risk landscape. That means continued understanding that the bad guys are bigger, badder and better organized than ever, and recognition of the impact this can have on organizations. But it also means understanding that containing risk means more than just increasing your IT budget without a strategic focus. It should translate into an organizational understanding of what attackers want, what most needs protection, your tolerance to incidents, and clear articulation of the responsibilities of each person in the organization.



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