



HELLENIC

Connect | Educate | Inspire | Secure

Balancing cyber risks and profits;
ways to tip the scale.

John ILIADIS
President of (ISC)² Hellenic Chapter



60 seconds about (ISC)² and the Hellenic Chapter

Start counting!



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Who is (ISC)²?

- ▶ **Largest** nonprofit membership association of certified security professionals
- ▶ Provider of lifelong professional **security education**
- ▶ **Global advocate** for the growth and success of the security profession
- ▶ **500.000** members, associates and candidates
- ▶ **170** Countries



(ISC)² Hellenic Chapter



past few months...

What we 've been up to (past 6 months)

- ▶ 4 Members-only events
- ▶ Vendor-based training in the works?
- ▶ 2x Gold CyberSecurity Awards (again...)
- ▶ Thought leadership in 5 Conferences
- ▶ Two TV appearances
- ▶ NIST CSF translation
- ▶ Two security awareness events delivered onsite, upon request
- ▶ New sheriff in town (BoD elections)





Without further ado...

*jot down your questions;
plenty of time for them, today 😊*



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The Agenda

Three kinds of CISO



Three ways to talk to the people upstairs



Three steps towards becoming the perfect CISO



One way to CISO's sudden death

THREE KINDS OF CISO



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CISO - THE DEFENDER

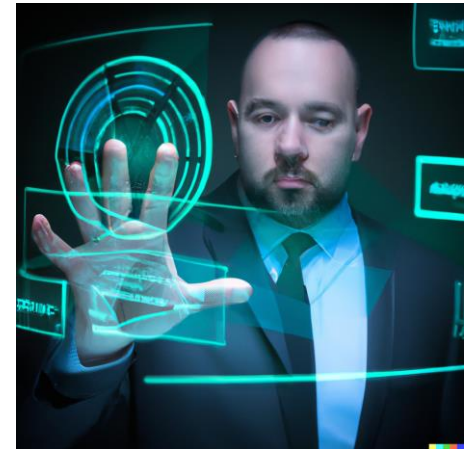
- » Defending organization's information assets
- » Maintain a strong cybersecurity posture
- » Managing Security Operations



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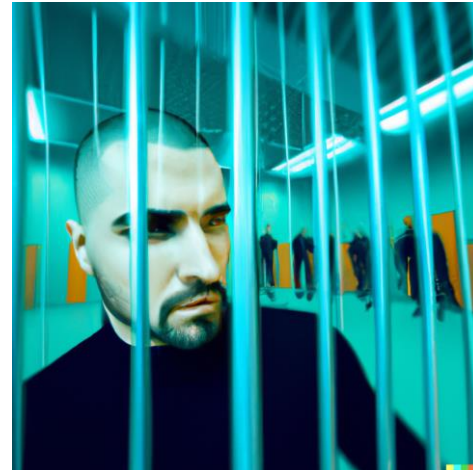
CISO - THE BUSINESS-ENABLER

- » Ensures security measures don't hinder growth
- » Integrates InfoSec into:
 - Strategy building
 - Product development
 - Other decision-making processes
- » Delivers informed risk choices towards profitable outcomes



CISO - IN PRISON

- » Wells notice* served to Solarwinds CISO
- » Uber CISO convicted
- » Who's next?
- » Get out of jail free card?



* "notification issued by regulators to inform individuals or companies of completed investigations where infractions have been discovered... the nature of the enforcement proceedings to be initiated against the recipient"



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Get out of Jail Free Card ?

- » Include CISOs in D&O contracts! It's a must-have.
- » Proactively maintain incident response plans
 - Technical response
 - Coordinate with legal (inform authorities)
 - Crisis management
- » Clarity
 - Clear lines of reporting with executive leadership
 - Share responsibility for cybersecurity decisions





THREE WAYS TO TALK ABOUT SECURITY TO THE PEOPLE UPSTAIRS



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1 - Security - a fad?



Chasing after those constantly emerging buzzwords towards the elusive Holy Grail?



Undermines essence of Security



Stakeholders may dismiss Security as irrelevant

2 - Security - FUD ?



Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt



Risk owners can never be certain they 've got the controls they need



Always look on the dark side of life



Leads to negative atmosphere and hinders collaboration



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3 - Security - an Investment Center!



Framing it as an enabler of business growth, innovation and competitive advantage



Helps align security initiatives with business goals



Highlights the ROI associated with security measures



Encourages stakeholders to view security as a critical component of their strategic decision-making



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THREE STEPS TOWARDS BECOMING THE PERFECT CISO



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The perfect CISO: *mythical unicorn*?



The Perfect CISO; a step-by-step guide

- » Step 1: Be an InfoSec leader
- » Step 2: Treat Security as an Investment Center
- » Step 3: Excel in Communication

let's do this, one step at a time...

A photograph of four wooden figures on a white surface. One figure in the center is painted red, while the other three are white. The figures are simple, rounded shapes with a spherical head and a cylindrical body. The background is a light blue gradient. The image is partially obscured by a white diagonal shape on the right side of the slide.

Step 1: Be an InfoSec Leader

Be an InfoSec Leader

Executive Committee to CISO:

“Talk to us, Bob; how are we doing with respect to Security?”



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Be an InfoSec Leader

CyberSecurity Posture					
Identify	Governance		Detect	Log and Event Management	
	Asset Management			Incident Monitoring	
	Risk Assessment		Respond	Incident Response Planning	
TPRM		Crisis Management			
Protect	Identity Management		Recover	Mitigation	
	Service Segmentation			Planning	
	Data Classification			Testing	
	Protecting Data at Rest		Improving		
	Protecting Data in Transit				
	Protecting Data in Use				

Trending positively

No change

Trending negatively



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Be an InfoSec Leader

CyberSecurity Posture					
Identify	Governance	↗	Detect	Log and Event Management	↗
	Asset Management	□		Incident Monitoring	↘
	Risk Assessment	□	Respond	Incident Response Planning	↗
TPRM	↘	Crisis Management		↗	
Protect	Identity Management	↗		Mitigation	□
	Service Segmentation	□	Recover	Planning	↗
	Data Classification	↗		Continuity of Operations	↗
	Protecting Data at Rest	↘			↘
	Protecting Data in Transit	↗			
	Protecting Data in Use	□			

Say what????

↗ Trending positively

□ No change

↘ Trending negatively





Be an InfoSec Leader

» Accompanying your 1-pager with KPIs

- Prevents “you are pulling my leg” situations
- Highlights the ROI associated with security controls
- Encourages stakeholders to view security as a critical component of their strategic decision-making



Be an InfoSec Leader

CyberSecurity Posture					
Identify	Governance	↗	Detect	Log and Event Management	↗
	Asset Management	☐		Incident Monitoring	↘
	Risk Assessment	☐	Respond	Incident Response Planning	↗
TPRM	↘	Crisis Management		↗	
Protect	Identity Management	↗	Recover	Mitigation	☐
	Service Segmentation	☐		Planning	↗
	Data Classification	↗		Testing	↗
	Protecting Data at Rest	↘		Improving	↘
	Protecting Data in Transit	↗			
	Protecting Data in Use	☐			

Security By Design -
% of risks detected
after deployment

Third-Party Risk Exposure -
Percentage of third-party
vendors assessed for risk,
along with their risk ratings

Risk Mitigation Rate -
Percentage of identified
risks that have been
adequately mitigated to an
acceptable level

Incident Monitoring -
Average time taken to
initiate incident response
to address security
incidents



Step 2: Treat InfoSec as an Investment Center



Treat InfoSec as an Investment Center

- ▶ **Executive Committee to CISO:**
- ▶ “Why should we invest in this latest series of security controls?”



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Treat InfoSec as an Investment Center

InfoSec investing is a two-way business street

You give some resources
(money, other resources?)

You get stg back
(achieving business goals)



How can we present that to the people upstairs?



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Treat InfoSec as an Investment Center

Business Goals ¹	Cyber Risks	Security Controls
Produce the most trustworthy weather forecasting service to the public (income: ads)	--Unable to finalise predictions in time --Unable to receive weather sensor readings in time --Third party injects (MitM) false weather sensor readings	--Elastic infrastructure to compensate for peaks --Multiple independent comms to the sensors --Strong and continuous sensor authentication and encryption
Deliver the fastest and always-available weather forecasting service	--Delays in response to specific parts in the world --Delays in presenting the info to the public (DDoS, lack of infra resources)	--Elastic infrastructure to compensate for high demand --High availability infrastructure to reduce downtime risk --CDN service to ensure low response time and fight-off DDoS

¹Two ways a CISO is made aware of business goals:

- **Proactively.** CISO is part of the Executive Committee, planning controls proactively.
- **Reactively.** CISO fills-in the first table column based on what officials said to the press, financial markets rumors, business goals in the website; unorthodox, but what if it happens?





Treat InfoSec as an Investment Center

- ▶ Leading the InfoSec investment discussion about a new product or service, during design time



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Treat InfoSec as an Investment Center

Business Goals ¹	Cyber Risks	Security Controls
Produce the most trustworthy weather forecasting service to the public (income: ads)	--Unable to finalise predictions in time --Unable to receive weather sensor readings in time --Third party injects (MitM) false weather sensor readings	- Elastic infrastructure to compensate for peaks --Multiple independent comms to the sensors --Strong and continuous sensor authentication and encryption
Deliver the fastest and always-available weather forecasting service	--Delays in response to specific parts in the world --Delays in presenting the info to the public (DDoS, lack of infra resources)	--Elastic infrastructure to compensate for high demand --High availability infrastructure to reduce downtime risk - CDN service to ensure low response time and fight-off DDoS

BoD: How much Security is enough?
Don't we have enough already?

CISO: Next slide, please 😊



Treat InfoSec as an Investment Center

- » How much security is enough to make an omelet?
- » Secret omelet ingredients!

- Risk governance; how?



- Risk Appetite; what is it?



Treat InfoSec as an Investment Center

» Risk Governance

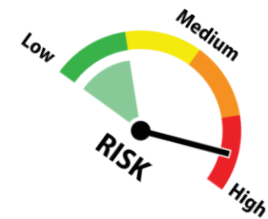
- Product/Risk Owners?
- Materiality of Cyber Risk (SEC) and disclosure?
- Documented risk management process? Tool?
- Residual risk acceptance?
- Risk informed decisions towards **profitable** outcomes



Treat InfoSec as an Investment Center

Risk Appetite (*an example*)

- » Risks A, B: intolerable → mitigate
- » Risks C: tolerable → closely monitor
- » Risks D: no special attention



		Impact		
		High	Medium	Low
Likelihood	High	A	B	C
	Medium	B	C	D
	Low	C	D	D

Risk Matrix



Step 3: Excel in Communication



Excel in Communication

You are **NOT** talking to them! “SHA256” or “Steganography” means nothing to most people.



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Excel in Communication

Be like the Borg. Adapt, depending on the audience*



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**Star Trek reference to a group of cybernetic organisms that adapt quickly to unforeseen and adverse conditions*



Excel in Communication

- » Adapt style depending on audience
 - What's in it for them?
 - Creating alliances

- » Persuading ≠ deceiving; highlighting your points

- » Let's take theory and put it to practice...





Excel in Communication

putting theory to practice

» Loss aversion

- The biannual cost of this CyberSecurity service went up by 20% for new purchases after February 20th
- We are eligible for a 17% discount on the biannual cost of this new CyberSecurity service, until the 19th of February

» Sunk Cost Effect

- We 've purchased this VPN solution. Invest in the 2FA add-on?
- This (bundle) VPN license has got 2FA capabilities; activate it?





Excel in Communication

putting theory to practice

» Framing

- The biannual cost for this new CyberSecurity service will go up from 5.000€ to 8.000€, after February 20th
- The daily cost for this new CyberSecurity service will go up from 7€ to 10€, after February 20th

» Active Choice

- We should invest on the new XR534U71 CyberSecurity product to protect Service X
- Should we keep the Cyber Risk at high levels for Service X or bring it down with the new XR534U71 CyberSecurity product?





Excel in Communication

putting theory to practice

» Enhanced Active Choice

- Should we keep the Cyber Risk at high levels for Service X and pay the increased (+1.000€) annual Cyber Insurance premium it carries along, or should we bring Cyber Risk down with the new XR534U71 CyberSecurity product? (*saliency of negative choice's cost*)

» Compromise Effect

- Which Cyber Insurance contract should we get?
 - 1.5mil premium, 5mil policy limit ?
 - 70K premium, 550K policy limit?
 - 8K premium, 25K policy limit?

(three options varying along two dimensions; option of choice: the middle one)





Are we done????

- ▶ **PERFECTION IN BALANCING PROFITS AND RISKS?**
- ▶ **ARROGANCE? ICARUS “SUDDEN DEATH”?**
- ▶ **MEMENTO MORI... ***

**In some accounts of the Roman triumph, a companion or public slave would stand behind or near the triumphant general during the procession and remind him from time to time of his own mortality*



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Saving
CISOs
from
SUDDEN
DEATH

Rule No1: It's all about *our infosec people*, ...\$#%id

Rule No2: Read again Rule No1!

It's all about our infosec people, ...\$#%id

Part 1

» Challenges

- Overworked and stressed out
- Understaffed



» We need to become better at:

- Coaching our people
 - take a look at *Coaching with Compassion*; many more out there
- Headhunting; we are 3.4mil short
 - think outside of the box; use CC or other novel tackling methods



It's all about our infosec people, ...\$#%id

Part 2

» We need to become better at:

- Developing our people

CFO: What if we train them and they leave?

CISO: What if we don't train them and they stay?

- Investing in diversity; groupthink



confidence





Q&A

*...our Members
grow stronger,
together!*

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