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# Cyber Security Top Tip 6

Security Governance



# For those of you who have been following this series so far, we now reach our final top tip in our Cyber Security series, which is Security Governance.

Governance can be a very dry topic but it is incredibly important, after all what is the point of assessing the risks, identifying gaps and implementing new controls and technologies to manage our security if we don't keep an eye on them to make sure that they are performing as expected.

For those organisations lucky enough to have an Internal Audit department then you could utilise this valuable resource to do a lot of the leg work for you. The internal audit plan could be written to include specific and scheduled reviews to cover off requirements at key times throughout the year, this could include penetration testing and other security reviews as I discussed previously.

However, the most important step is responsibility and ownership of Information Security.

For those organisations with many staff and locations worldwide how do you effectively manage the security for all your staff, buildings and information without someone directing and managing that strategy, it shouldn't be left to chance or simply left to the IT department who quite often have enough to do in keeping the systems up and running.

There are plenty of surveys out there which all indicate a very common theme – all organisations should have a Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), or equivalent, within the organisation who has the defined role to look after and manage the security strategy. Of course this all depends on the size of your organisation and it may not be appropriate to have a full time person in that role, so consider a designated person to wear that cap when needed. It really helps an organisation, especially when rolling out a program of education, to have a point of focus and someone who owns that process. But don't forget, ultimate risk ownership resides at Board level.

I hope the last few weeks have been helpful to you all. I summarise below what has been discussed so far:

- 1. Security Framework** – find one that suits your organisation
- 2. Risk Assessments** – ensure that you cover Cyber risks as part of your normal process
- 3. Staff Education** – train your people on the risks and do not treat this as a one off exercise
- 4. Security Assessments** – whether technical or procedural ensure you assess your security on a periodic basis
- 5. Incident Response** – make sure you have a plan and test it
- 6. Security Governance** – have oversight into the process

These together are the key components of effective Cyber Security Management.

The EU data protection legislation has now been finalised, this will apply to local organisations processing the data of EU nationals and introduces a potential fine of up to 4% of global turnover for data breaches. On top of the costs associated with dealing with the aftermath of a data breach this would most likely cripple most organisations if they get it wrong. Don't allow your organisation to be an easy target. Implement controls and processes to ensure you are not the low hanging fruit, effective Cyber Security is a journey not a destination.

## Minimise the threat of cyber attacks to your organisation.

Call Matthew Parker for a consultation.



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