CYB 410 Project One

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August 6th, 2022

Risk Register

A risk register oftentimes takes the form of a list that details all of the identified risks related to a project. It will list details like the risk category, the likelihood of each risk manifesting into a threat, the cost to mitigate each risk, and the required steps to mitigate each risk (Reciprocity, 2022). This is important for a number of reasons. Arguably the most important reason is that it allows a security team to be prepared and have a contingency plan for any risks that have been identified. Risks and opportunities exist in almost every field, and business ventures and projects are very rarely (if ever) going to be completely risk free. Therefore, having the foresight to identify and outline potential risks grants the ability to avoid or mitigate those risks in the future. In the worst case scenario, it also makes recovering from a threat more manageable because a plan has already been developed.

Threat landscapes and risk registers have a very close relationship as they both closely relate to one another in terms of function. A threat landscape is every potential and identified threat that exists which affects a particular sector or group of users (Kaspersky, 2022). Therefore, the risk register is simply a list of all of the identified risks that exist within the threat landscape. The threat landscape will grow and evolve over time as new threats are created and new methods of infiltration are discovered, but the risk register grows and evolves alongside it as new risks and threats are identified.

Business Impact Analysis

A business impact analysis is similar to a risk register in that it is used as an aid in the event of a disruption to normal business operations. Where a risk register is typically used to list various risks stemming from cyber threats and malicious threat actors, a business impact analysis might extend to include natural disasters and other unforeseeable events (ready.gov, 2022). It can also be used to mitigate the consequences of things like employee turnover or required system updates, as these undoubtedly cause a certain level of disruption to a business.

A business impact analysis relates to the survivability of an organization because an organization's survivability is often directly determined by the severity of the impact of an event. As previously stated, a business impact analysis serves to analyze the impact a potential event or threat could have on a business or organization, and an organization has the potential to fail if certain risks or threats are not planned for. Proper planning allows a business to have a contingency plan that may not entirely mitigate the consequences of an event, but it will at the very least minimize the severity of those consequences.

Risk Management Planning

The tenets of confidentiality, integrity, and availability, or the CIA triad, make up the foundation of almost every decision when it comes to security risk management planning. One has to understand the potential effects or side effects that a decision could have on any part of the triad. For example, making a decision that protects the confidentiality of information may also reduce the availability of that information, increasing the amount of time it takes to perform a task. Another valuable aspect of risk management planning is strategic thinking and using an adversarial mindset. In essence, this means to view the situation through the lens of a threat actor. By doing so, a security professional will be able to more accurately predict what threats might be encountered on a given project. Using an adversarial mindset puts one in a position to analyze a project and inspect it for any vulnerabilities or weaknesses. If a weakness is found, then it can more quickly be corrected or patched and the risk to the organization can be minimized.

References

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