**Security as a Team Effort**

Security is more than just IT—it’s a shared responsibility across an entire organization. Effective security plans emphasize **people, processes, and technology**, fostering a **culture of security** that includes employees, vendors, and customers.

**1. Understanding Security Risks**

Security plans help organizations **prepare for risks**, which can include:

* **Damage** – Physical harm to assets (e.g., device malfunctions, environmental damage).
* **Disclosure** – Unauthorized access to sensitive information.
* **Loss** – Data breaches or theft.
* **Human Error** – Mistakes like sharing sensitive data through personal email.
* **Attacks** – Cyber threats from external actors.

By categorizing risks, organizations can develop targeted strategies to **mitigate vulnerabilities** and **reduce potential harm**.

**2. The Three Core Elements of a Security Plan**

Security plans are built on three fundamental elements:

* **Policies** – High-level rules that **define what to protect and why**.
  + Example: An **Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)** outlines guidelines for accessing corporate systems securely.
* **Standards** – Tactical benchmarks that **guide policy implementation**.
  + Example: Password standards from **NIST SP 800-63B** specify password length and complexity.
* **Procedures** – Step-by-step instructions for **executing security tasks**.
  + Example: A procedure for securely resetting passwords ensures consistency and accountability.

These elements **work together** to ensure security plans are clear, actionable, and effective.

**3. Making Security a Shared Responsibility**

Security plans **must be communicated effectively** to all employees. When everyone understands the policies, standards, and procedures in place, organizations can:

* **Create accountability** – Employees know their responsibilities.
* **Ensure consistency** – Security measures are applied uniformly.
* **Increase efficiency** – Clear guidelines prevent confusion and errors.

By making security a **team effort**, organizations strengthen their overall defense and reduce the impact of security risks.