

Collaborative Discussion – Michael Geiger – Initial Post

In their study, Spears & Barki (2010) examined the positive influencing factors of user participation in Information Systems Security Risk Management. Here, qualitative and quantitative assessment approaches were used. For the investigation on a qualitative level, nine interviews were conducted and then the mentioned influencing factors of the users, which contributed to the improvement of the security risk management, were determined. In a further step, a questionnaire was developed, which was sent within the ISACA organization and answered 228 times. On this basis, a quantitative correlation analysis was carried out, which statistically examines the previously determined positive influencing factors of the inclusion of users in the SRM.

The particularly noteworthy advantages of involving users in the risk management process is, on the one hand, the increasing awareness of employees with regard to security aspects within the company, which has a correlation of 0.83 (Spears & Barki, 2010). On the other hand, the improved implementation of security structures in relation to Access control (0.86), Segregation Duties (0.84) and Security policy (0.79). Furthermore, the involvement of the users in the Information Systems Security Risk Management helps to better understand the use of the IS from the users' point of view (0.87) and thus to develop SRM based on the application requirements of the company. This can also create better efficiency (0.87).

The advantages mentioned show that involving users in Information Systems Security Risk Management not only has advantages in risk assessment during development, but also increases security in general. The lack of these sources of information and participation means that assumptions have to be made based on the information provided in relation to the company, its industry and size. Furthermore, this makes quantitative evaluation methods more difficult. In order to be able to develop comparatively valid quantitative results, published data from the same or similar sectors can be used.

References:

Spears, J. & Barki, H. (2010) User Participation in Information Systems Security Risk Management. Management Information Systems Research Center, University of Minnesota. Available from: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/25750689> [Accessed 14 March 2022].