Security Management

**Overview**

Putting in place an effective security system requires planning, resources and effort from all levels in an organization.

Security management relies on properly identifying and valuing a company’s assets, and then implementing security policies, procedures, standards, and guidelines to provide integrity, confidentiality, and availability for those assets.

Various management tools are used to classify data and perform risk analysis and assessments. These tools identify vulnerabilities and exposure rates and rank the severity of identified vulnerabilities so that effective countermeasures can be implemented to mitigate risk in a cost-effective manner.

**Management Role**

* Management’s responsibility is to provide protection for the resources it is responsible for and the company overall. These resources come in human, capital, hardware, and informational forms.
* Management must concern itself with ensuring that a security program is set up that recognizes the threats that can affect these resources and be assured that the necessary protective measures are put into effect.
* The necessary resources and funding need to be available, and strategic representatives must be ready to participate in the security program.
* Management must assign responsibility and identify the roles necessary to get the security program off the ground and to keep it thriving and evolving as the environment changes. Management must also integrate the program into the current business environment and monitor its accomplishments.
* Management’s support is one of the most important pieces of a security program. A simple nod and a wink will not provide the amount of support required.

Support from the management of an organization is key for a good security system because it is the only entity that can effectively provide:

* List of assets and information to be protected
* The resources to setup and maintain the system: equipment, training, education
* The means to enable enforcement of policy compliance and revision

The security program needs to:

* Be driven by the management to have a better chance of being effective.
* To be developed in terms of the whole of the organization and then refined to fit the specific areas within the organization.

**Security Management Responsibilities**

* Help achieve business goals
* Work with all internal and external stakeholders
* Develop and implement security policies, procedures, standards, guidelines
* Perform risk analysis, assessments, and security audits
* Implement and monitor security programs
* Ensure compliance

**Security Management Approaches**

Top-down

**Definition**: The initiation, support, and direction come from top management, work their way through middle management, and then reach staff member.

**Advantages:**

* More aligned with the organization’s long-term strategic goals
* More likely to be effective due to support of management
* May not address short-term issues

Bottom-up

**Definition**: Security program developed without getting proper management support and direction. Ad-hoc, focus on short-term issues

**Disadvantages:**

* Not aligned with strategic goals
* Lack support from top management
* Difficult in large organisations, likely ineffective