

Strategic Cyber Security Report for Leaders

A Monthly summary of Strategic Information for Cyber Security Leaders



I've been interacting with CISOs for large organizations on a weekly basis and amongst my preparations to have meaningful and relevant conversations, I've decided to start this monthly Report based on Strategic Cyber Security Signals.

The aim of this series is to provide insights into relevant information for CISOs and leaders. As such, it bears the responsibility of attaining to the role's expectations.

In this article I'll then summarize the key aspects in the CISO role and how the report will help address them.

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Chief Security Information Officer

Every executive role has responsibilities to the business, regardless of if they are Technical or not — this makes the CISO a difficult role, since it has to respond to the business with security value, which historically has always been seen as costs. Much like what technology was before it gained a major role in all our lives.

It's true, times are changing really quickly in the Information Security field, with it gaining so much popularity and notoriety in the news due to all misfortunes with Cyber security incidents — but at times, we still see CISOs reporting to CFOs and even CTOs, where they are indirectly under clear Business value and costs.

I've heard of CISOs in such organizations where they have to have difficult conversations to have budget approved to their plans — as we know, this hinders security outcomes and potentially increases the overall risk of said organization.

Whilst I have no say in such challenges, I have done some reading on what every CISO (or leader for that matter) must do when they start in the office.

Most importantly their job is to reduce risk while supporting business growth.

CISO Plan

I've come across this book called "[The New Leaders 100 Day Action Plan](#)" where the authors go through a set of recommendations for leaders starting on their roles, it's a great read to help you build your framework.

Someone leveraged this framework to create their own CISO-version of it. FOR NOW, I will choose to use it as resource for this as they seem credible enough based on their background. Check out the source (linkedin), "[Christina S.](#)" [here](#). They list out a number of goals for someone starting in their CISO, leveraging their own experiences in 3 different CISO roles over the past years. The goals listed by them are the following:

1. Define the CISO's role and responsibilities
2. Build Rapport, & Establish trust
4. Assess the Security Program (Today)
5. Develop the Security Plan (Tomorrow)
6. Present the Security Plan
7. Gain leadership and stakeholder support
8. Execute the Plan
9. Measure & Continuously Improve

Read more on the source above.

Another source I've come across is podcasts on the role, CISO tradecraft is one (among some others I listen to) and they had this good session recently about the CISO mindmap:

[#86 — The CISO MindMap \(with Rafeeq Rehman\) | CISO Tradecraft \(podbean.com\)](#)

The mindmap they refer to is available online if you're interested, and whilst is a good Information security mind map it doesn't specifically tackle the matter from an actual executive perspective.

Thus, why I set out to create one myself for this report...

CISO Strategic Framework

Based on my conversations with CISOs, past CISOs working at Microsoft and other sources I have defined a simple model that looks at their priorities which I will look at address in this series.

My own framework here is based on a 2-layer approach:

1. Look at domains: The 3 main domains focused on: **People, Process and Technology** (the better PPT of the kinds that pop to mind 🤖).
2. From the lenses of their States: Current and Desired (the lesser CD of the kind that pops to mind 🤖).

This falls in line with what CSOonline published here — [the metrics that CISOs should look to reduce risk](#).

From the above, I created a mockup mind map of what would be relevant in such a monthly Report, highlighted in Red.



Essentially, this series will encompass the areas highlighted above.

I'll publish the first issue soon, here.

Acknowledgements

Learn more about my Cloud and Security Projects: <https://linktr.ee/acamillo>

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