**Discussion Question: Supplier Issues**

For this module's discussion board assignment, select one of the following to discuss:

* **Find at least two (2) articles that provide information on vendor security assessment. Briefly describe what each site offers and provide a recommendation to your classmates. Why did you recommend this specific site?**
* Go out to [Cloud Storage Service Level Agreement (SLA)](https://cloud.google.com/storage/sla)and describe the elements that make up this Service Level Agreement (SLA). Does anything surprise you about this agreement? Is anything missing that should be included?
* Compare and contrast COTS and open-source software in terms of security issues.

***Before you submit your thread, put your name in the subject line.***

Software as a service has been a major talking point throughout this class. Companies and individuals can outsource all types of work through different vendors instead of relying on an internal team or developer. Working with an external team can pose cybersecurity risks. This is why reviewing vendor security should be a pivotal part of deciding whether or not to work with an outside company. For this discussion post, I will focus on articles that provide information on vendor security assessments. The first resource I found on the topic was from the Vanta website. The second resource on vendor security assessment is from the Bitsight website.

Vanta provides information on what a vendor security review is, why it is important, steps to take, and how to proceed after a security review has concluded. Vendor security risks help identify whether a vendor is a good and trustworthy fit (Vanta, 2024). The steps include "defining the review scope and security criteria, standardizing your due diligence and review methods, assessing the vendor's security risk, and assigning the vendor risk score" (Vanta, 2024). Once a security review is complete, a decision is made on whether the advantages outweigh the disadvantages (Vanta, 2024).

The Bitsight website provides a vendor risk assessment questionnaire template for individuals or businesses. Outsourcing software tasks through SaaS can lead to growth opportunities but comes with the added risk of more cyberattacks (Thomas, 2024). Using a questionnaire to assess a vendor helps find potential vulnerabilities but cannot guarantee all risks are exposed (Thomas, 2024). Some of the questions on the template include "who is responsible for cybersecurity within the organization, is there a chief information security officer, and do you have data recovery capabilities?" (Thomas, 2024).

Based on the information on Vanta and Bitsight, one cannot go wrong using either site. However, if deciding between the two, Thomas's article on Bitsight seems to be the better option since it includes a template for developers to reference and draw from.

**References**

Thomas, B. (2024, June 14). *Cyber Risk and Security Risk Assessment Questionnaire*. Www.bitsight.com. https://www.bitsight.com/blog/vendor-risk-management-questionnaire-template

Vanta. (2024, September 3). *How to Conduct Effective Vendor Security Reviews*. Vanta. https://www.vanta.com/collection/tprm/vendor-security-reviews

**Assignment Requirements and Grading:**

1. An initial post of approximately 250 words is due by **Thursday, 11:59 p.m., CT**.
2. For the initial post to be considered substantive, it should be at least 250 words in length and fully cover the topics being presented. Single-sentence definitions or responses will not be awarded points.
3. Submit your post by clicking on the **Assignment Link** above, then **Create Thread**. You must create a thread in order to view your peers' posts. Tip: Create your post in a Word document and then copy and paste your work into the thread.
4. A minimum of three (3) responses, **to the original threads of other students**, of 100-200 words each are due by **Sunday, 11:59 p.m., CT**.
5. To view the rubric grading criteria, click on the following link: [Discussion Board Grading Rubric.](https://content.bellevue.edu/cst/csd/rubricdbv3.pdf)

**(50 points)**