**CYBS 8396 Strategic Cybersecurity Management**

**Experimental Learning Assignment Creating a Custom Strategic Cybersecurity Plan – Part I**

One of the major deliverables for this course is to create a mid-Term Strategic Cybersecurity Plan – Part 1. The second major deliverable is the Part 2 of the Strategic Plan which will be developed the second half of the course (check your syllabus for all due dates).

Your professor will let you know if this is an individual project or a team project. I strongly recommend that you build your Strategic Cybersecurity Plan as we progress through the Units. Do not wait until the Unit the project is due to start writing your plan.

The class sessions, learning activities, assignments, and discussions in each unit will provide key information that should be included in your plan. I am looking for your understanding of the work we have covered in the class sessions, assignments, learning activities, and discussions. Each of these learning components will provide you the baseline to create your company’s Strategic Cybersecurity Plan. You are expected to customize your plan and program for your specific company and tailor the plan to fit your organization. While many companies face similar external threats and vulnerabilities, they all have different cultures and levels of risk tolerance. Describing why various components are part of your plan is just as important as what you include. Your plan must contain all of the components described in this document at a minimum but you are free to add additional items that are important to your Strategic Cybersecurity Plan. You should also conduct your own, independent research on the various topics to help you develop your Strategic Cybersecurity Plan.

**This is not a cut and paste assignment. This is a creative assignment where you create your business and the Strategic Cybersecurity Plan that fits your business and addresses the specific challenges of your environment.** Valuable creativity with well thought out justifications and insightful additions will be recognized and may be awarded extra points at the discretion of the Professor. TurnItIn will be utilized to determine any issues with cut & paste or copying others work. TurnitIn will be utilized to validate original work. Papers indicating copying will be rejected and a failing grade will be provided.

Review this document carefully and follow the instructions. A detailed explanation of what is expected in Part 1 is provided. The detailed requirements are organized roughly by class units where possible. Those details are followed by the Mandatory Sections outline with point value, Presentation specifics and Grading Insights.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Good luck and I look forward to reading your Strategic Cybersecurity Plans.

**Part 1 - Mid-Term Paper Details**

Your strategic plan should start with an introductory letter written by the Business CEO or President that should set the stage for the Strategic Cybersecurity Plan and serve as your call to action.

This is the KEY to your Strategic Cybersecurity Plan. Security must be aligned with your business and IT priorities or it is doomed to fail from the start. Therefore, it is important to have a good understanding of your business and how the company uses technology.

Next you will prepare your company mission, vision and value statements. Use the examples you were provided plus research other examples of these documents.

Security is all about enabling and protecting the business. Create any additional applicable business elements such as the short and long term goals and objectives to help you build out your security strategy. Again, be creative and include any additional information that will help demonstrate how the Strategic Cybersecurity Plan is aligned with your company’s business priorities. Provide as much detail as you feel is necessary.

Cybersecurity is closely aligned with IT in most companies. Describe the IT philosophy and technology environment at your company. You should describe areas that could greatly impact your Cybersecurity strategy such as the following:

* What type of hardware and software are used?
* Do you outsource any support functions?
* Do you have technical solutions that are special or unique to your company?
* Do you allow employees and students to bring their own devices?

These are just a sample of the type of questions that you should consider when describing your IT organization. Again, provide enough information to illustrate how the Strategic Cybersecurity Plan supports the IT strategy and environment of your company. Provide as much detail as you feel is necessary.

The placement of the security team within an organization impacts not only its performance but also its relationship with other departments. Visually create an organization chart for your Cybersecurity team. Think about what you learned from the NICE structure and the text book when creating your org-chart. The org-chart must at least show the following:

* Placement within the organizational hierarchy.
* Reporting structure and security position titles.
* Number of dedicated security employees.
* Employees in other departments who have specific security duties.
* Highlight any special security resources such as consultants or contractors.

Again, these particular items must be addressed in your org-chart but you are free to include other aspects if you feel they are appropriate for your situation.

Describe your security organization by listing the various security roles and high level security responsibilities of the security team members.

Be sure to include and explain any Cybersecurity specific responsibilities that you are expecting other departments in the company to own and carry out. Rarely does the security team perform all security activities. For instance, in many companies the Help Desk Support Group is responsible for helping users reset their forgotten passwords.

Now you must justify your org-chart. Explain why you chose this particular reporting structure and the various security roles. Do you have enough resources or too many? Do you have any open positions now or in the future? Explain why this is the best organizational structure for your company, Cybersecurity team and business environment.

Finally, draft a Security Mission statement that aligns with the Business and IT.

The next step is to identify and describe (5) security core values that are important to your organization as you create your own security culture. These core values must enhance and support your Cybersecurity program. Explain the significance and relevance of each of these core values to your Cybersecurity program, don’t just list them and also explain how they align with the business.

Next identify and describe (5) strategic Cybersecurity issues or challenges that your company is facing now or will face in the near future. A number of issues were discussed during the semester so far but you are free to add any strategic Cybersecurity issue that you feel is important and relevant. Describe at a high-level how each of these issues and challenges effect your organization and why they must be addressed.

Finally, prepare a compelling conclusion to the Strategic Plan – Part 1.

**Strategic Plan Part 1 - Outline and Grading Scale**

**Mandatory Sections:**

Introduction, Strategy and Goals by Business CEO or President

* Cover
* Table of Contents
* Introduction (business name, industry and industry)
* Business Mission & Vision & Values
* IT Philosophy Organization Chart and Number of Employees showing reporting structure
* Security Organization Description
* Security Organization Justification
* Security Mission Statement
* Security Core Values
* Security Issues and Challenges
* Conclusion – What do you want to tell the executives to get their support for your Cybersecurity Plan Part 1?
* Mechanics: Professional Format, Flow, Page Numbers, 10 References, Visual Elements
* Approximately 20 pages numbered excluding cover, TOC and references (single spaced with double between sections, Veranda 10 font)
* Your assignment should be in a “Word” document (not .pdf) format to allow me to provide feedback within the document. Include your name (and team members) as part of the file name when submitting the final version. Please be sure to name the word file document using the following naming convention to make it easier for everyone to manage:
* Last name of team member(s)\_Midterm Plan (ex: Blanke\_Midterm\_Plan)
* One person on the team should upload the word file with your Part 1 plan to the midterm Brightspace location.

**Presentation Details: 50 points**

This presentation is a power-point file with notes on each page as if you are speaking to the Board or other Executives of the Company. You are selling your strategic plan to the organization. The mid-term presentation will NOT be presented “live” but will be placed in the presentation drop box by (1) team member only.

* Prepare 5 to 7 .ppt slides
* These should be professionally developed with notes for each slide of what you want to say to the Executives
* No typos
* Use the Course Home - COB Resources – “Writing & Presentation Resources” - PowerPoint Presentation Guides for the Assertion-Evidence Structure for PowerPoint Slide Design details
* Name your presentation last name of team member(s) using this format: Blanke\_MidTerm\_Presentation
* One person on the team should upload the presentation (.ppt) file to the midterm Presentation location in Brightspace
* Last name of Team Members(s)\_MidTerm\_Presentation (ex: Blanke\_MidTerm \_Presentation)

**Grading Insight**

Points will be subtracted for the following:

* Late submissions
* Incomplete or missing sections of the assignment
* Not following the instructions of the assignment
* Not applying the text, lecture and weekly learning materials
* Any Cutting and Pasting from various reference documents without proper citation
* Turn-It-In Evaluation
* Components in the plan that do not align with the company business
* Missing components that should be included based on the company business

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