Discussion Forum 1 Initial Post

Both Qualitative and Quantitative assessment approaches were considered in a multi-method design for this research. This allowed data collection and analytical methods when examining user participation in security risk management. A more refined picture of the concept and outcomes of user participation (Spears & Barki, 2010) became evident. The benefits of qualitative methods provided a rich understanding of activities, behaviours and assignments that define user participation in security risk management for compliance. They also allowed the construction of a process model for framework analysis of sequential events.

It was clear that this method allowed understanding that user participation improved business processes, risk assessments, control design and organisational awareness. The benefits of quantitative methods supported a variance model. A deeper context was found by combining both ways, including strengthened results. This also showed greater awareness and was helpful for training purposes.

The advantage of using users in the risk management process is that organisational understanding of security risks and controls improves within targeted business processes and supports the greater alignment of security risk management with business objectives, values and needs. Development and performance of security control improved, meaning that user participation added value. Users seem to be more attentive when they relate to business needs, supported by accountability. Compliance provided regulation opportunities for security managers to engage business users in security risks and controls.

The users supported improved organisational awareness, business alignment, control development and performance (Amrit et al., 2013). This also helped training needs for future growth.

Amrit, C., Hillegersberg, J. & Diest, B. (2013). Involving End Users to Mitigate Risk in IS Development Projects. *Journal of Organizational and End User Computing,* 25.

Spears, J. L. & Barki, H. (2010). User Participation in Information Systems Security Risk Management. *MIS Quarterly,* 34, (3): 503-522.