

# ANATOMY OF A SUCCESSFUL CISO

The Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) is a key role in all enterprises and the modern CISO needs a combination of stellar technical, business, and people skills to be successful. What makes a great CISO? In addition to outstanding leadership skills to establish trust, motivate teams, and inspire confidence, successful CISOs demonstrate some distinguishing skills and abilities.

## Strategic thinking mind

This enables you to ensure that the security program is effective and aligned with the company's goals, establish short- and long-term operational plans, and focus on motivating and persuading others in the organization that cybersecurity is everyone's responsibility.

## Cyber-risk awareness

Using tools that offer risk heatmaps enable you to keep a constant eye on the enterprise attack surface, know where the enterprise is vulnerable, and empower your stellar team to prioritize risk and plug holes.



## Communication skills

Risk management priorities need to be regularly conveyed to senior management, the board of directors, business units, IT teams, and other risk stakeholders, using a language that they understand.

## Fortitude

Facing the daunting challenges of a stressful job is not easy so you need to reach into your indomitable will to get over hurdles and emerge victorious on the path to guiding the organization towards a mature and cyber-resilient security posture.

## Lightning fast speed

You take prompt action towards mission critical risk items, zero-days, security incidents and minimize impact if something goes wrong.

## Laser-focused vision

It allows you to champion a prioritized, outcome-oriented approach to cybersecurity instead of a spray-and-pray approach.

## Relationship building skills

These come in handy while talking to the board, building consensus for a new initiative, getting buy-in across different departments including IT, getting budget, and evangelizing employees throughout the organization to become partners in the responsibility of cybersecurity.

## Coffee

After all, it is the most important meal of the day!



## AI-powered tools

Use these to get an inventory of all your assets, continuously monitor them across attack vectors, and gather insights to predict risk by modeling breach scenarios, ultimately enabling you to take proactive action to transform your cybersecurity posture.

## A balance of technical and business acumen

This is essential to aligning security with the business with a balance between understanding technical vulnerability and risk data and the ability to translate it into business terms for senior management. Knowledge of regulatory compliance and legal matters is also a plus.

