OPTIV

REDUCE TECHNOLOGY SPRAWL

OPTIMIZE CYBER DEFENSES

Quick—how many technologies are in your cyber security portfolio?

Chances are, you have quite a few. You have a lot of options. From 2011 to 2015, investments in private cyber security companies increased threefold, from $1.1 billion to $3.8 billion. This translates to an explosion of cyber security companies—and technology options.

In the heat of the moment, especially in crisis, it can be tempting to adopt a “Buy it, deploy it, forget it” approach. But the truth is that more spending doesn’t always translate to reducing incidents.

There are several reasons for this. To start with, technology investments acquired over the years can weigh an organization down. Technology sprawl fueled by acquisitions and the purchase of best-of-breed products by organizational siloes can make it hard to add new tools, even if they’re needed. It can take a lot of time to manage the sometimes extensive network of third-party vendors in this mix, and getting the combination of products operating seamlessly together can also be daunting. And, since the old security tools never go away, the added support burden of new tools puts even greater pressure on already constrained operational resources.

Avoid getting caught in this vicious cycle **by following these five tips**.

1. ELIMINATE WASTE
2. HEALTH CHECK
3. FIND BALANCE
4. EXPAND YOUR VIEW
5. ACCOUNTABILITY

Continue for more on Optiv’s five steps

The best way to avoid getting caught in this vicious cycle is to develop a proactive approach to managing your cyber security portfolio. Following these five tips can help you get started.

1

Eliminate waste in your portfolio of cyber security tools.

A 2014 Osterman Research survey showed that 28 percent of organizations were not fully utilizing their security investments. According to Osterman, $33 of the $115 spent on average per user for security related software went underutilized or was never used at all. To combat this, partner with IT and the business to prioritize the deployment and implementation of shelfware that is truly needed.

2

Make sure you're getting the most out of your already-installed security products.

Conduct a health check to ensure they are operating at peak efficiency and performance. Review all the security features of the tools deployed in your environment to determine what additional options can be enabled. Optiv offers a variety of health checks to help you ensure you optimize existing investments.

3

With every new purchase, make sure to balance between best-of-breed technology and fully integrated systems.

There is no clear right or wrong approach in this matter. However, if you find yourself struggling with system integration, data flow and vendor management, it may be time to seriously consider the value of fully integrated options. Let go of the need to have everything on premise. Cloud-based solutions have the potential to simplify your technology stack by off-loading operational duties, but they may also magnify challenges by further fracturing your system integration and data flows.

4

Expand your view outside the walls of the security organization.

Consider that you can enhance your enterprise security posture using non-security tools such as simplifying the corporate environment through centralization and standardization.

5

Hold your business application and information technology partners more accountable.

Include built-in security functionality into any new technology requirements to make sure that additional security tools and controls don't have to be "bolted on" afterwards.

Finally, keep in mind that not every security challenge is best answered by technology alone. In fact, the best security combines people, process and technology. Improving your overall cyber security landscape requires a disciplined approach that includes investment, people, process, education, governance, the right incentives (positive and negative) and technology. You can adopt a more strategic, programmatic approach by developing a plan, implementing products and services, and continuously monitoring and adapting the plan based on new threat intelligence.

To learn more about how Optiv can help you optimize existing cyber security investments, visit **www.optiv.com** today.

OPTIV

1125 17th Street, Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202

800.574.0896 | www.optiv.com