OPTIV

How Secure is Your Organization?

46 Questions Every CISO Must Answer Now

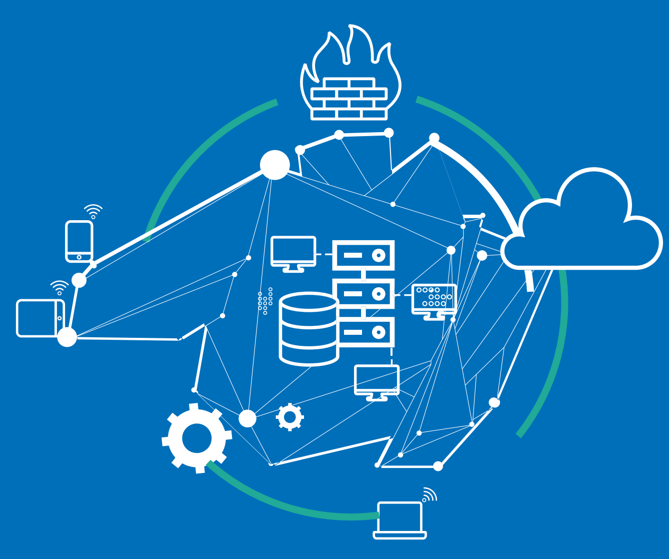
You can encounter many challenges in running a security program. Executive support. Budget limitations. Lack of funding. Access to skilled staff. Employee training. A rapidly evolving threat landscape.

Use this checklist to assess your security program. Revisit this list regularly, at least once a year, to ensure your strategy remains aligned to your business and risk profile.

Business Strategy

1. What is your organization's business strategy?
2. Is your organization growing or consolidating?
3. Is your business making changes that will increase the overall risk profile (e.g. reorganization, re-branding, etc.)?
4. Are you planning to move business operations to high risk countries?
5. What is your go-to-market strategy?
6. Do you have any M&A activity underway or planned?
7. What drives the value in your company (customers, IP, brand, partners)?
8. How does (or doesn't) your security strategy support the business mission?
9. What are your organization's most critical assets that must be protected to sustain market share and growth?
10. How resilient is your organization to an attack or incident that affects operations?

IT Organization, Systems and Infrastructure

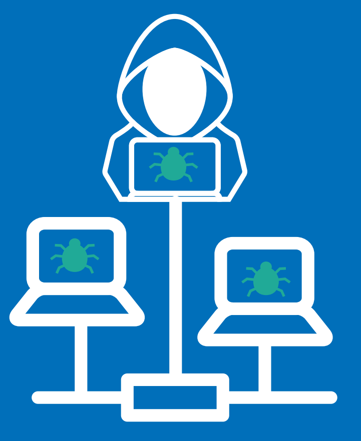


11. How mature is your IT organization?
12. Is your IT organization reactive or proactive?
13. How strategic is IT to your business?
14. Does your security executive have a seat at the table with your company's other senior executives?
15. What level of visibility and transparency does your company have into IT operations?
16. Is a particular IT function a strategic asset to the business? If not, would you consider outsourcing it?
17. To what degree are your company's business processes impacted by current IT trends such as cloud, IoT, big data and BYOD?
18. How much of IT is shadow IT or cloud (PaaS/IaaS/SaaS)? How much of your IT is outsourced?
19. What is the relationship between your CISO and IT? Does security report into IT or are they peers? Do they have a good working relationship? What are the lines of demarcation?

Organizational Culture

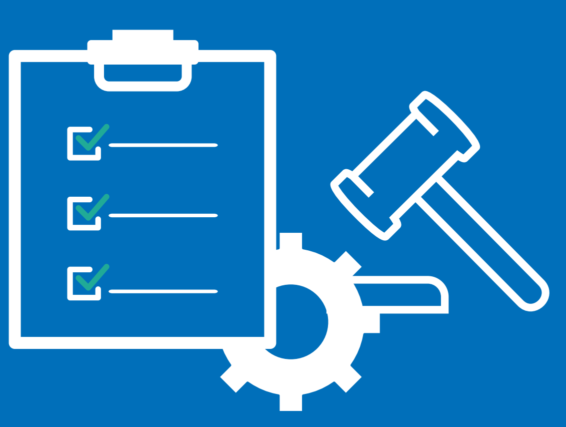
20. Do executives support security or do you need to market to them?
21. How quickly does your organization accept change?
22. Is your organization agile or static?
23. Is your culture creative, collegial and risk-taking or a hierarchical, process oriented, well-oiled machine?
24. Is your culture risk adverse or risk tolerant?
25. Are your employees receiving enough training in security processes and the importance of security?
26. Is security everyone's job in the company? Do employees know the impact to your company if valued assets are compromised?
27. Does your organizations' culture support alerting security if employees notice something suspicious?

Adversaries and Threats



28. Do you know your threat actors? Who are your enemies? Who would profit from attacking your company?
29. What threats typically target your company's industry? How might that change in the next year?
30. Has your security team conducted an analysis to determine what the threats are? How recently?
31. What potential impact and risk do your third-party suppliers represent?
32. Does your company worry about insider threat or have an active insider threat strategy?

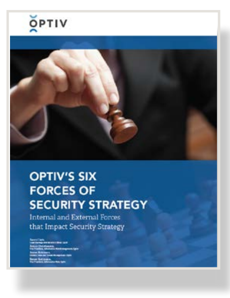
Government and Industry Regulations



33. What industry and government regulations apply to your organization?
34. Are there changing regulatory requirements that will impact your organization?
35. Is your business expanding into a market that has new regulatory requirements?
36. Are there privacy laws that govern the use, consent and proper disclosure of personal information? Do you have a chief privacy officer that is responsible for compliance of the non-IT requirements of the regulations?
37. Can your organization adopt a strategy that minimizes the scope of the regulations?
38. Can your organization implement controls that satisfy both compliance and security functions?
39. How is your relationship with your legal and compliance teams? Do you have regular meetings with them to discuss the requirements of existing regulations and the possible business impact of new regulations?

Global, Social and Political Forces

40. In what other countries do your organization's branch offices, customers or suppliers reside?
41. Do the countries with which your organization does business have laws that support the security of your organization's data and business?
42. Can your organization exclude countries that are not supportive of modern business practices?
43. Is your organization involved with or conducting business with nation states?
44. Does your organization engage in business that is controversial?
45. Are there organizations in various countries that might target your organization?
46. Are you outsourcing the development of a new product in a country that does not support copyright law?



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OPTIV'S SIX FORCES OF SECURITY STRATEGY

Internal and External Forces that Impact Security Strategy

Ready to get started?

Optiv's Six Forces of Security Strategy guide can help address these critical areas to reduce risk and maximize cyber security effectiveness.

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1125 17th Street, Suite 1700, Denver, CO 80202
800.574.0896 | www.optiv.com

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