BUSINESS CONSULTANCY: VCISO

Businesses today host a wide range of information that needs to be properly protected against threat actors, which can include competitors, cybercriminals or even foreign governments. The Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) forms and maintains the organisational strategy as well as drives its execution and protects the company's sensitive & valuable information, assets and technologies. However, many businesses today choose to utilise a virtual/fractional CISO (vCISO) to address the needs of the role rather than hiring one internally.

Some of the key vCISO activities include:

- Information security planning and management
- Influencing organisational and management structure
- Owning information security management practices
- Security risk management activities
- Manages internal and external compliance
- Evaluation of 3rd parties and their access to an organisation's systems and data
- Management of audits by regulators or customers

Why a vCISO?

Cybersecurity is at the forefront of organisational concern. The rise in cyberattacks, data breaches and attack sophistication highlights the requirement to put a comprehensive set of controls and technologies in place, which becomes an impossible task without a driven information security programme. Implementing a vCISO allows organisations to quickly fill the CISO role and capitalise on readily available experience.

CISOs are an expensive hire. While almost every organisation needs a CISO, not all of them can afford one. A vCISO allows organisations to avoid the expense of employing one in-house, only paying for the services and time used.

vCISOs can be more experienced. A vCISO has implemented information security programmes and is working with many clients across various set of industries and sizes, giving them a broad range of expertise, all of which that can be applied to your business right away.

A vCISO is a consumption-based option, based on an agreed scope of work, so you only pay for what you need.

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Top vCISO use cases

Bridging a full-time hire. The departure of your existing CISO may be untimely in regard to the current security initiatives. Our vCISO can come in, provide value in reviewing the current cybersecurity strategy and help recruit, select and transition to a full-time CISO.

Development of a mature cybersecurity programme for a smaller business. When a full-time CISO is too costly for an SMB, a vCISO works part time to provide enterprise-calibre expertise to define a security programme the organisation would not otherwise be capable of developing.

Defining a compliance programme. Businesses with or without a CISO many simply not have the expertise on a specific compliance matter and how it translates to the creation of a specific policy and/or process. Examples include AML, PCI DSS, GDPR, DPA and others.

Optimising cyber spend to achieve greater impact. Whatever the organisation was doing several months ago in terms of cyber risk is likely not as effective today. A vCISO can advise on the latest risks and strategies.

A vCISO can help you look at the current budget, its structure and identify ways to more effectively and efficiently spend it to create a more secure posture- SASE being a good example.

If you have valuable and sensitive information within your environment, you probably need some form of information security programme in place. In order to deliver on those information security objectives, you need an owner, who is going to drive the programme forward, steer the vision, strategy, and implementation. The vCISO is a great option for those who are yet not sure what steps to take, or even for those who know exactly what they need, but lack the availability or expertise to make it happen. ***Michal Minarik, Practice Lead - Business Consultancy, Ultima***

Why Ultima for Business Consultancy?

With a team of over 200 technical experts who have years of experience across a huge spectrum of industries and technologies, we can help you turn your vision into a success. We have experts on the ground daily helping customers achieve their goals, overcome challenges and make thinks work in new and imaginative ways.

This is why our recommendations do carry a punch. They can be realised, as we know what works, what does not, and simply that your trust should always be backed by experience. Whether that is a technology, change of process, or significant shift in corporate culture.

To learn more about our vCISO capabilities, get in touch with your Ultima Account Manager today.

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