

TRANSLATING SECURITY LEADERSHIP INTO BOARD VALUE



CISO Secrets to Better Board Meetings

To proactively improve cybersecurity and risk posture by prioritizing risk mitigation and response, CISOs must build a better relationship with the board.



Embrace the “Trends Master” Role

Helping their businesses prepare for the next big technology trends is a critical CISO value-driver for the board. The best CISOs regularly point out coming trends, both overall and for their specific industry.



Talk the Talk

Effective CISOs lose the technology jargon and expand their skill sets to be able to fluidly speak to broader business reporting metrics while translating those into actionable intelligence for the board.



Collaborate Early and Often

Communication must move beyond a give and take in times of crisis to a continuous collaboration. Forward-looking CISOs are reimagining the traditional boundaries that define their security team and using this new thinking to inform how they communicate with the board.



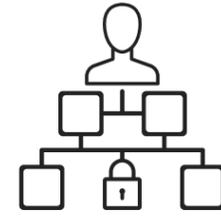
Boost Credibility with Transparency

When it comes to reporting, simpler is better and being fully transparent about the security risks new innovations carry, while being realistic about solutions, is critical to building trust and maintaining credibility.



Make Cybersecurity Synonymous with Business Growth and Opportunity

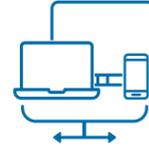
CISOs have the opportunity to support innovation and business growth by prioritizing assets and creating a common organizational understanding of risk appetite that is recognized across the board.



Ways Boards Can Step Up Cybersecurity

While CISOs must broaden their skill set to effectively communicate with the board, board members also have a special role to play to ensure success.

1



Expand Board Expertise to Include Digital Directors

Corporate boards must seek increased technical literacy and actively pursue digital directors and advisors that can deliver high levels of both technical and business acumen.

2



Build Collaborative, Ongoing Relationships with the CISO

Board members who proactively build relationships with their CISO counterparts —and proactively allocate time at board meetings to hear from them—create stronger cybersecurity defenses. An open dialogue leads to stronger alliances, smarter decisions and better business outcomes.

3



Walk the Walk

In addition to showing support for a company’s cybersecurity strategy and initiatives, boards should actively engage the CISO to help keep the board up to date on other organizational approaches and security frameworks.

4



Expect Security Reporting Discipline

Boards must ensure CISOs know what reporting metrics and benchmarks are valuable to them by applying a reporting discipline with consistent benchmarks and actionable information.

5



Be Clear About Innovation Needs and Risk Appetite

Clearly communicated financial, operations and reputational risk tolerance prioritization from the board allows the CISO to effectively manage expectations and realities around new innovations.