

The High Costs and Weak Results of Siloed Security Efforts

Throughout your organization, many different departments might be tasked with security programs to protect sensitive or business-critical information and improve regulatory compliance. One functional area with a single focus might create policies and procedures in isolation from other, security-related programs. While each initiative is important, the lack of coordination and common framework can actually weaken overall security. Siloed security efforts often result in:

- Gaps in responsibilities that can lead to hidden risks
- Higher costs because of redundant efforts
- Lack of alignment to business goals within the organization

A Business Approach to IT GRC Improves More than Just Security

IT governance, risk management, and compliance (IT GRC) take a holistic approach to security and security management and enable organizations to manage security as a business process. Research indicates that organizations with mature IT GRC programs experience:

- Increased revenue, profit, and customer retention
- Reduced audit costs, business disruptions from IT, and costs associated with the loss of customer data¹

By adopting a holistic business process model instead of a siloed approach, your organization can:

- Address IT GRC with a common security-centric framework
- Improve the understanding, shared vision, and collaborative efforts of security stakeholders across your organization
- Align your IT GRC planning with industry standards and best practices, as well as broader business goals
- Realize the proven financial benefits of managing security as a business process

Consider an IT GRC program if your organization:

- Wants to achieve business transformation goals
- Faces regulatory compliance pressures in one or more areas
- Places a high priority on internal governance
- Incurs substantial audit costs
- Considers the network infrastructure a strategic investment for business operations

Start the Conversation with the Cisco IT GRC Security Strategy Planning Service

The Cisco® IT GRC Security Strategy Planning Service is a good starting point for incorporating siloed security initiatives into a holistic process and moving toward a mature IT GRC program. Highlights of the service include:

- Affordable, time-efficient five-day engagement that builds a common understanding of IT GRC and prioritizes action and direction to bring current efforts into line with industry best practices and your corporate goals
- Participatory process that brings together siloed or disparate efforts to make sure that different functional areas share the same vision for a successful IT GRC program and learn how to work collaboratively for greater effectiveness
- Structured, customized engagement based on your industry's compliance regulations, and international standards-based frameworks, including Security Management Requirements (ISO/IEC 27001), Security Management Code of Practice (ISO/IEC 27002), and IT Governance (ISO/IEC 38500)
- Delivery of findings and recommendations that establish priorities and set the direction for action and further planning



Learn, Align, Plan

Learn: We begin by creating a foundation for discussion with a common understanding of what IT GRC is and how other organizations use ISO/IEC standards to improve information security. The first day focuses on educating participants about IT GRC, providing a common vision for how IT GRC can benefit your organization. Participants also start to review their own programs to see how they map to similar initiatives within their organization, industry standards, and best practices.

Align: The next two days are dedicated to an intensive, shared discovery process that puts your individual security programs into the context of a holistic IT GRC program, as well as the broader business goals of the organization. The structured group sessions and individual interviews illuminate inefficiencies, misalignments, redundancies, and gaps that might be undermining success. Participants work collaboratively to develop scenarios for risk management and opportunities for the organization.

Plan: During the last two days, Cisco conducts additional data collection and analysis and presents a final summary report that details findings and recommendations. This report includes a visual representation of your organization's strategy going forward, including the goals, justifications, priorities, and path to a more mature IT GRC state.

For More Information

The Cisco IT GRC Security Strategy Planning Service is available globally. Service delivery details may vary by region. For more information, contact your local account representative or visit www.cisco.com/go/services/security.

¹ IT Policy Group 2008 Annual Report.