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In our rapidly-changing, data-driven ecosystem, all organisations – from the smallest cold-store to the largest multi-national corporation – have information that they need to protect. Very large organisations tend to have a chief information security officer (CISO). Smaller businesses might have an information security (infosec) officer who performs a range of infosec tasks. Increasingly, however, leading practice (where allowed by regulators) is to engage a virtual chief information security officer (vCISO) – sometimes for a specific project or for a specific period of time.

As part of their infosec programme, CISOs should:

- Plan and manage infosec activities

- Set up, modify and strengthen organisational and management structures

- Introduce infosec initiatives, including infosec risk management activities

- Evaluate third-parties with access rights

- Coordinate infosec audits

vCISOs can provide these – and many other infosec – services, helping to achieve a robust and resilient infosec vision, strategy and programme for your business – and at a significant lower cost than a full-time CISO. Other benefits of engaging a vCISO include:

- Market-driven leadership on risk, governance, incident response, disaster recovery and business continuity

- Expert assessments of security threats and compliance risks

- Advice on how to build an effective security programme

- Integration of infosec into your business strategy, process and culture

- Development, roll-out, and maintenance of security programmes

- Integration and interpretation of infosec programme controls

- Industry-specific expertise (including SAMA's cybersecurity framework, PCI DSS, NIST and ISO 27001)

- Liaison with auditors, assessors and examiners

vCISO advantages:

Offer a fresh perspective on current infosec stance

Use gaps to develop road-map to desired future state

Use leading practice to support effective strategic decisions

Make, support and justify quantifiable and measurable decisions

Contact our information security team to further investigate whether a vCISO could offer your organisation significant benefits.

Contact us:

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