



ALIGNMENT OF BUSINESS AND IT AFFECTS CYBER RISK

The discussion about business and IT alignment has been going on for decades. It has taken a different tone during different periods, but it has always been a challenge. The new area of conflict and increased importance is cyber risk.

The area of disagreement has always revolved around what the business views as delaying the implementation of new functionality or getting new products to market. Certainly, a powerful argument. This includes new IT standards, the use of new development tools, regulatory compliance, and more.

Typically, IT is in favor of standards, compliance and what standardizes and simplifies their role of development and operations. Their view is these approaches create more predictable, repeatable results. Also a powerful argument.

Cyber security is the latest in the long line of “delays” in the view of the business. The addition to IT’s argument here is a breach or ransomware will cause operational delays and charges to the business, or could put the firm out of business. Not concerns to be ignored.

In a recently released study evidence is presented that aligning the business and IT for cyber security will reduce costs and create a more resilient environment.

The study defines four categories:

Business Blockers – cyber resilience is favored over strategy of the business

The Vulnerable – Cyber security is not aligned with business strategy.

Cyber Risk Takers – Business growth and time to market are the defining drivers for companies in this category.

Cyber risk is subordinate to business goals.

Cyber Champions – Companies in this category focus on both cyber risk and business strategy striking a balance and alignment.

The study of over 4700 respondents showed that companies in the Cyber Champions category have a significantly lower cost in the event of a breach. The other categories were shown to be able to lower their breach costs by 48% - 71% by becoming a Cyber Champion. That is a convincing argument given that the cost of a breach to a small business can reach \$1.2 million.

Companies in the Cyber Champions category outperform companies in the other three categories in all the measured areas:

- Stopping attacks
- Identifying breaches more quickly
- Repairing the damage from a breach more quickly
- Reducing the impact of a breach to the company

Companies in this category align cyber security with business strategy and goals so the business doesn’t suffer.

All powerful reasons to review your focus on cyber risk and business alignment. Another example of why cyber security takes services, not just tools.

Want to learn more about cyber security and education, contact AIM Cyber at info@AIMglb.com or call (888) 773-1920.