Cybersecurity at MIT Sloan

Attitudes, beliefs, and values drive behaviors that create and maintain resilience in a culture of cybersecurity.
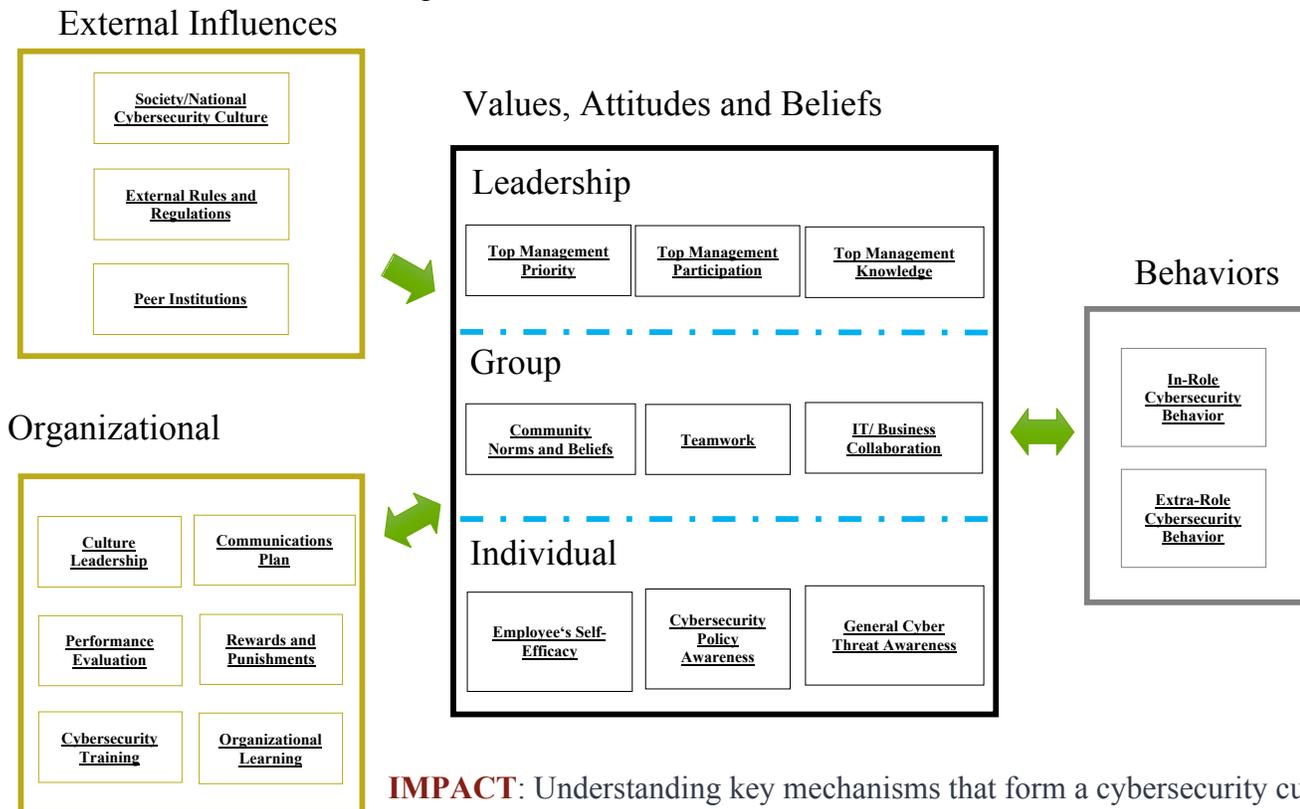
Cybersecurity at MIT Sloan brings together thought leaders from industry, academia and government with MIT faculty, researchers and students to address strategy, management, governance and organization of cybersecurity of critical infrastructure using an interdisciplinary approach.

Building a Culture of Cybersecurity

Many organizations have developed a robust safety culture where every employee knows, and receives constant reminders, of ways to stay safe and decrease the chance of accidents. But when it comes to cybersecurity, most organizations lack a similar culture of security. Building a culture of cybersecurity involves transforming the way everyone works, the way leaders lead, the way processes execute, and the way issues are managed. Research by Cybersecurity at MIT Sloan examines the ways organizations build a culture in which attitudes, beliefs and values drive behaviors that minimize the human-errors that jeopardize cybersecurity. At the heart of a culture of cybersecurity is getting every employee to execute their day-to-day activities in ways that keep the organization as secure as possible.

External Influences

- Society/National Cybersecurity Culture
- External Rules and Regulations
- Peer Institutions

Organizational

- Culture Leadership
- Communications Plan
- Performance Evaluation
- Rewards and Punishments
- Cybersecurity Training
- Organizational Learning

Values, Attitudes and Beliefs

Leadership
- Top Management Priority
- Top Management Participation
- Top Management Knowledge

Group
- Community Norms and Beliefs
- Teamwork
- IT/ Business Collaboration

Individual
- Employee's Self-Efficacy
- Cybersecurity Policy Awareness
- General Cyber Threat Awareness

Behaviors

- In-Role Cybersecurity Behavior
- Extra-Role Cybersecurity Behavior

IMPACT: Understanding key mechanisms that form a cybersecurity culture will give managers specific levers to use to increase organizational resilience.