MIT MANAGEMENT SLOAN SCHOOL

INTERDISCIPLINARY CONSORTIUM for IMPROVING CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE CYBERSECURITY (IC)³

Educating our Executives Working Session Assignment

Goal: share practices about ways to educate our executives about cybersecurity

Managing and leading employees in effective cybersecurity practices requires attention from all levels of the organization. But often senior executives and "C-suite" executives are the least prepared for their role in creating and maintaining cybersecurity. Educating our senior executives about cybersecurity is a challenge. We don't want to provide so much detail that we lose their attention, but we don't want to be so vague that the risks and consequences of decisions are unclear. Further, senior executives must be prepared to appropriately respond to outside inquiries from investors, the press, and others about cybersecurity.   In this session, we will share best practices for educating our executives. Our goals:

1. Create an actionable set of practices our members can implement immediately
2. Identify areas and tools that we might create (or share) to facilitate executive training about cybersecurity.

Workshop Plans

Assignment: Participants are asked to bring an example of a practice or activity their organization has implemented (or they have seen implemented in other organizations) that includes the content necessary to educate their senior executives and C-suite executives about cybersecurity. Some examples:

How do you educate your C-suite/Senior Executives about cybersecurity?

- Quarterly Board Briefing by CISO to review current threats.
- Tabletop Exercise that simulates a press conference to provide practice on responding to difficult questions after an 'incident'.
- Simulation of a breach and subsequent meeting with the CISO/CIO to discuss issues.
- Private, one-to-one 'training' class to explain how the company identifies, protects, detects, defends, and recovers from a cybersecurity incident.

What to bring to the session: Participants are asked to bring an example (different, or at least more detailed, from those listed above) from their experience. Pick an example that you think is both interesting and different. Be prepared to tell us what the activity is and what content is shared with executives during that activity. While we prefer you bring a document or a slide, it is also acceptable to just bring an idea to share with the group in discussion.

Plans for this working session: We will break into small groups to discuss examples of ways we educate our senior executives. We will discuss two questions:
1. What is an example of a practice or activity used to educate the C-suite executives?
2. What content do you include in your training of your C-suite executives?

The break-out groups will then reconvene in the larger classroom to share one or two of the best ideas that emerged from their discussion. We will take notes and create a summary report for (IC)³ members. As always at our workshops, Chatham Rule will apply.