INVESTIGATING REGULATORY OPERATIONALIZATION AND ITS IMPACTS ON CYBERSECURITY

BACKGROUND

- Breaches continue to occur...even in some of the most tech-savvy / wealthy companies.
- There is an ever-expanding alphabet soup of governmental regulations.
- Policymakers' drumbeat for new oversight in many technology areas is intensifying.
- These concurrent phenomena are counterintuitive...yet there is a dearth of research in this area.
- We need to illuminate the interaction, and outcomes, of regulatory compliance and cybersecurity.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- RQ1: How are cybersecurity regulations operationalized in organizations?
- RQ2: What are the compliance and performance impacts of cybersecurity regulations?

QUALITATIVE METHODOLOGY

GROUNDED THEORY METHOD (GTM)

“...the identification of useful theoretical conceptualizations based on a rigorous, systematic and comprehensive approach to data collection and analysis” (Fernandez and Lehmann 2005) // (Urquhart and Fernandez 2013, p. 225)

“...to discover what is going on, rather than assuming what should go on.” (Glaser 1978, p. 159)

- START WITH A CLEAN SLATE
- INTERVIEW RELEVANT EXPERTS
- OVERLAPPING DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS
- CODE DATA / CONSTANT COMPARISON
- EMERGENCE OF CONCEPTS / FACTORS
- THEORETICAL SAMPLING / SATURATION
- CREATION OF MODEL / THEORY

DATA COLLECTION

REGULATORY OPERATIONALIZATION PROCESS

RESULTS

THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUESTIONS FOR EXECUTIVES

- Are you propagating the right mentality about cybersecurity regulations (or are you just “licking the bosses”)?
- Are you instilling a culture of security and compliance from the top down? How are you ensuring accountability?
- Are you empowering your employees to be successful and are you working to avoid cyclical compliance?
- Are you introducing new risk by resorting to “black box” security tools or outsourcing regulatory efforts to “selfish” 3rd parties?
- Are you thinking about cyber risk holistically or in silos? How are your regulation-driven decisions impacting other risk areas?

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