Cybersecurity Evaluations

Cybersecurity Defense Solutions

https://www.cybersecdefense.com
@cybersecdefense

13720 Jetport Commerce Parkway – STE 13
Ft. Myers, FL 33913

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Cybersecurity Defense Solutions, LLC. 13720 Jetport Commerce Pkwy STE 13, Ft. Myers FL 33913
http://www.cybersecdefense.com
info@cybersecdefense.com

Synopsis

CDS's Cybersecurity Evaluation is based off the CERT Resilience Management Model and follows the recently established NIST Cybersecurity Framework. It is a voluntary, non-technical (to an extent) assessment to evaluate the operational resilience and Cybersecurity capabilities of an organization. We do this by examining an organization's Cybersecurity resilience practices across ten domains:

- Asset Management
- Controls Management
- Configuration and Change Management
- Vulnerability Management
- Incident Management
- Service Continuity Management
- Risk Management
- External Dependency Management
- Training and Awareness
- Situational Awareness

Why do a Cybersecurity Evaluation

Cybersecurity is more than just technology. Servers, Workstation, Routers, Wireless, etc are just the tip of the iceberg. Cybersecurity is a serious business issue that can, within seconds, ruin a company's reputation, worth and competitive position if not taken seriously.

Recognizing that the national and economic security of the United States depends on the reliable functioning of critical infrastructure, the President issued Executive Order 13636, Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity, in February 2013. It directed NIST to work with stakeholders to develop a voluntary framework – based on existing standards, guidelines, and practices - for reducing cyber risks to critical infrastructure. This framework is known as the NIST Cybersecurity Framework.

Utilizing this framework in our evaluation methodology, allows CDS to assess currently deployed security strategies and a repeatable approach for performing evaluations against a set of industry best practices and government standards to increase consistency of your organization's Cybersecurity posture, no matter what sector your business operates in.

At the end of the Cybersecurity Evaluation, you will know:

- How your organization rates on compliance on 22 categories and 98 sub-categories
- How your particular infrastructure, policies and practices attribute or deter from compliance
- Base level issues and recommendations for your particular technology infrastructure, management practices and policies/procedures

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- How to define a roadmap to address the most critical Cybersecurity issues faced by your organization

The Process

The first step in a Cybersecurity Evaluation is for CDS, with the assistance of your IT department/contractor, to create a topographically correct network diagram of all your organizations IT hardware infrastructure. This diagram should be as detailed and as true to life as possible, as this diagram will forge the framework for what questions are required from the remainder of the evaluation.

Once the diagram is agreed upon as correct, up to date and complete, the next step is to go through the assessment questions for each of the 5 domains for the framework; Identify, Protect, Detect, Respond and Recover.

These questions will need answers from a variety of individuals at any particular organization, including (if applicable) CEO's, CIO's, CFO's, COO's, IT Directors, IT Employees, HR Directors, Managers, Software Development Teams (Mangers and Developers), Security Teams (both physical and network) and other personnel depending on the complexity of the infrastructure.

Clients need to realize that the questions asked will be extremely varied in nature and very deep in the Cybersecurity realm. No company will implement all items asked in the questionnaires. The goal with the evaluation is to find and correct deficiencies, not to place blame. The more honest and forthright clients are with the questions, the more accurate the evaluation will be and the better the company will be at mitigating the risks uncovered in the evaluation.

Once the questions are complete, and the answers checked and verified, CDS will prepare the Site Summary Report for review. This confidential report (a sample is attached) will show all the information gathered and the weighted results of all questions and findings. A CDS analyst will go over the report in the review/closeout briefing meeting. In this meeting, solutions to gaps in compliance can be discussed and weighed based on risk to the organization and it's goals.

The Benefits

With Cybersecurity breaches becoming mainstream news daily, Cybersecurity awareness and preparedness are no longer luxuries, they are increasingly becoming mandated by law and demanded by customers. By performing a voluntary Cybersecurity Evaluation your organization can expect:

- A better understanding of your organization Cybersecurity posture;
- An improved organization-wide awareness of the need for effective Cybersecurity management;

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- A review of capabilities most important to ensuring the continuity of critical services during times of operational stress and crisis;
- A verification (and marketable) measure of management success;
- An identification of Cybersecurity improvement areas;
- A catalyst for dialog between participants from different functional areas within an organization

What a Cybersecurity Evaluation is not:

The Cybersecurity Evaluation is not a Penetration Test or a technical Vulnerability and Threat Assessment. While these are needed and part of a well rounded Cybersecurity plan, the Cybersecurity Evaluation is a higher level, systematic, repeatable and comparable method for assessing your organizations Cybersecurity posture, resilience and infrastructure.

Summary

If you have questions or need assistance on implementing anything in this overview, need a Vulnerability Assessment, Penetration Test, Phishing Assessement, Cybersecurity Awareness Training or anything else related to your organizations cyber and information security, please give us a call, or interact with us online. You can email us at info@cybersecdefense.com, visit our website at https://www.cybersecdefense.com, follow us on Twitter @cybersecdefense, like is on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/cybersecdefense or connect with me personally on Linkedin at https://www.linkedin.com/in/cybersecdefense. We are happy to help!

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About Cybersecurity Defense Solutions:

Cybersecurity Defense Solutions was founded by a group of IT professionals with long term Data and Network Security, Software Development, IT Management and Business Management backgrounds. Our founders have leveraged solutions to assist private and public sector companies in both network and data security for over 20 years. Drawing on their combined expertise in Data Security, Data Eradication, Network Security, Ethical Hacking, Data Forensics, Data Recovery and Best Security Practices, CDS was born to assist companies with their Cybersecurity defenses, bringing together best-of -breed solutions with education and awareness and a proven methodology to assure that companies are doing everything within their power to defend from cyber attacks.

Our methodologies follow industry standard best practice including, but not limited to the NIST Cybersecurity Framework and DHS C-Cubed Framework to assure that companies can prove both reasonable and reliable efforts to Identify, Protect, Detect, Respond and Recover from a Cybersecurity Incident.

We pride ourselves in our detailed, hands-on approach, customer service and quick reaction capabilities. We are dedicated to our mission, vision and values:

CDS Mission:
To enhance the security, resiliencey, and reliability of our client's cybersecurity defenses. We accomplish this by delivering high-quality, innovative cyber and data security services and solutions.

CDS Vision:
To be a recognized, world class leader in providing industry changing cybersecurity solutions to protect the assets of our clients, and to contribute our knowledge to betterment of the cybersecurity community at large.

Our Core Values:

Integrity - Unified approach to how we do business
Honesty - Doing the right thing, every time
Respect - Valuing the opinions and perspectives of others
Dedication - Commitment to our word
Diligence - Working hard to provide the right solutions and solve complex problems

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