Characteristics of highly effective security leaders

What does it take to become a strong information security leader?

Insights from the 2013 Chief Information Security Officer Assessment reveal key findings from top security leaders. Those that have the right combination of practices and who are addressing key challenges are evolving into a more versatile security leader.

Formalize your role as CISO
- Be recognized as the authoritative security leader in your organization

Establish a security strategy
- Nearly 70% develop their security strategy in conjunction with other business strategies

Develop effective business relations
- 80% are aware of the security concerns of their CEO

Build trust
- Security leaders communicate in a transparent, frequent, and credible way to stakeholders

Share information
- Over half do not share threat information with anyone (peers, suppliers, industry groups)

Invest in advanced technology
- Foundational security technologies are still the most vital – but you must invest in advanced capabilities when they meet a business need

Fortify your mobile security
- 39% are planning to develop an enterprise strategy for BYOD – but only 29% have done so

Focus on overall risk
- 71% track the impact of security to the overall risk to the organization

Address concerns around reputational risk
- Realistically outline what is possible with your Board and C-suite

Translate and integrate metrics
- Nearly 2/3 do not translate metrics into financial impact

Are you setting a new standard for security leadership?

Download the 2013 CISO assessment
Learn more in the Security Intelligence blog

For more information visit
IBM Center for Applied Insights
www.ibm.com/ibmcai/ciso