

# THE ONEROUS WAY FROM CYBER SECURITY TO DATA PRIVACY

CISOs have to play ubiquitous roles in the business operations of an organization facing security challenges and finding ways for risk mitigation. For this a CISO should possess skills on interpersonal, leadership, communication, and presentation and an in-depth knowledge on modern trends and technologies.

## Q Please describe your job role in the organization?

My role involves focusing on ICT Governance, Risk, Compliance, Information Security, Business Continuity, Data Privacy, auditing, training, and accreditation from certification bodies. I am also involved into ensuring reporting, monitoring, and measuring the critical domains of Information Security to take proactive preventive measures. I am also involved into designing and strategizing IT Strategy and ensuring businesses towards digital transformation.

## Q What are the most important and critical aspects of your job role for your organization?

The most important and critical aspect as a Security and compliance person is "Communication". Constant communication with the team, staff, employees, stakeholders, directors, as well as with external regulatory and compliance authorities is the most critical and important aspect for this kind of role. It is very important to have great interpersonal and communication skills, conflict management, and team management skills other than the necessary technical skills and expertise.

## Q What are the typical challenges faced by a chief security officer in large and medium enterprises?

There are various challenges which CISOs usually face in any organization: One, the growing frequency of cyberattacks. The increasing prevalence of cyberattacks is generally the top concern for CISOs and the drive for most of their day-to-day efforts. At the same time, they are expected to wear multiple hats: that of the defender and enforcer who protects the organiza-

tion, as well as the manager and a trainer who enable the members of the organization to stay secure and educate them on the existing and upcoming risks

Second, yet very crucial challenge is the shortage of skilled resources, and organizational issues. Currently, the market is filled with people having tool-based skills. However, being a CSO the major challenge is to have the resources with understanding and knowledge of compliance, risk management and key concepts of information security and data privacy. They should have understanding about laws and regulations pertaining to Information Security, Data Privacy, and cybersecurity.

Another very critical challenge which usually CSOs face is they are not always considered as a true member of the leadership team.

## Q What are the key skills required for an ideal chief security officer in this age of digital transformation?

Since CSO must wear multiple hats, it is very important to have diverse portfolio of skills to his name. But I believe that other than the technical and cybersecurity skills (which of course is mandatory), a CISO should have good communication, presentation, and interpersonal skills. He/she must have good understanding of the recent trends and technologies like AI, ML, Blockchain, IoT from business standpoint. and on top of that, he/she must have a strong grip on Governance, Risk, Compliance, Data Privacy and relevant regulatory laws and regulations.

## Q How does your organization or how do you define digital transformation?



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Digital transformation is a buzzword, and a common misconception is introducing new tools and technologies in the organization is called digital transformation. Digital transformation is not only the process of using digital technologies to create new or modify existing business processes, culture, and customer requirements to meet changing business and market requirements; Digital transformation is more than this. Digital transformation is about cultural/organizational transformation, it also involves business model transformation as well as domain transformation. It is only with a complete overhaul of an organization that businesses can realize the benefits of digitization: enhance operations, create collaboration opportunities, expand their service offerings, and revolutionize their approach to the customer experience.

**Q According to you, how does digital transformation affect the security posture of any business?**

A push back many enterprise organiza-

tions in data-sensitive industries have privacy and cybersecurity concerns. And that is valid. Most digital transformation efforts involve leaving behind on-premises solutions to move to the cloud, as well as integrating all a company's data into one centralized system. Of course, this brings up the increased threat of cyberattacks stealing customer data and company secrets. Online attacks can target system vulnerabilities, poor setups, and unsuspecting users. Be sure to have a plan in place to proactively mitigate these threats before they happen.

**Q Specifically, what are the challenges and opportunities created by digital transformation including IoT, cloud, mobility, for chief security officers?**

The first and foremost challenge starts right from the top, lack of understanding of digital transformation and no vision and strategy with regards to digital transformation. No proper feasibility studies, lack of ROI benefits realization leads to further

complexities. Lack of Change Management strategy, complex software and technology, and lack of skilled resources is another major challenge to drive digital transformation within the organization. Digital transformation is not only adopting new software, technologies, and processes that are more efficient and automated than traditional business practices and processes, it's an entirely new, innovative way of doing something that is core to your business.

**Q At present, what advice or feedback or recommendation would you give cyber security solution vendors, channel partners, consultants?**

My two cents to solution vendors and consultants: Focus on the GRC rather than just selling and working on the tools. Become partners in digital transformation rather than vendors and service providers. Build your strong base on Risk Management, invest in uplifting your skills. 🐼