



CIO Dinner Sound Bites

Cyber Security

Doing business securely in a hyperconnected world was the theme of the autumn 2013 series of Deloitte's CIO dinners, where we discussed cyber security. This document is a summary of the sound bites gathered from those events.

The rapid pace of technology is creating a sophisticated and complex set of security issues. One thing is certain - cyber threats are not going away and they will become more dangerous. Data, operational capability, reputation and trust are all at risk.

“Cyber security: The threat landscape has changed, and the business case for more mature security is stronger than before.”

Key points

- The World Economic Forum identified four key elements in which stakeholders must establish a common dialogue when addressing cyber security:
- Threats: Cyber threats are as numerous as they are complex.
- Vulnerabilities: Cyber attacks usually exploit vulnerabilities in technology, process or human action.
- Values at risk: Potential impacts of cyber threats on governments, companies and individuals include denial of service, data exposure, disinformation, damage to reputation and loss of trust.
- Responses: These fall into two different categories - those using a traditional approach based on policies and regulations, and those using a community-based approach.

The crucial role of the CIO

The proactive, post digital CIO drives innovation in cyber security. CIOs determine threat scenarios, balance risk, assess the danger and share knowledge with their peers, both inside and outside the organisation.

Risk assessment includes forming views on how much, or how little, governments can help the organisation protect itself, and what the alternatives might look like. Laws and regulations are part of the answer but will usually remain one step behind the cyber attacker. What other protection mechanisms are available?

Breaking into a phone is actually quite easy. Security of cloud systems is often more robust. But accountability for security of information and systems lies with the organisation and the CIO.

“Most organisations are struggling to achieve the required level of maturity of their cyber security capabilities.”

Action is needed now

Equip the right people with the right knowledge

Continuous training of stakeholders is critical, from the very top of the organisation to those responsible for developing the code and maintaining your digital infrastructure. Attacks no longer focus on the network perimeter, broadening the risk to internal information systems.

Attract the right talent, skills and creativity

This is hard, but it's also essential if you are to achieve and maintain the necessary level of maturity in cyber security. Cyber threats often exploit the very latest techniques and technologies and successful defence means remaining both vigilant and up-to-date.

“Peer level contacts between CIOs can help underpin the cyber strategy.”

Security, privacy, collaboration

Mobile devices and cloud computing are a gateway to new opportunities and also new risks, with the increased use of both demanding a more mature level of cyber security.

“In a post digital world, we also need to balance security and privacy with collaboration.”

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