

Security Measurement Program Checklist

Prepared by



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What is a Security Measurement Program?

An information security measurement program is the means through which your security program measures itself and identifies any security issues that require attention. Most security measurement programs typically deal with risk, but an effective security program will measure more areas within your environment than just risk.

An effective measurement program should also check on the health of the overall program and processes, the scope, and the repeatability of these processes. Measurement should span widely across all your business units, not just into depth for one.

Security Measurement Program Checklist

- Determine the scope and purpose of your measurement program. You might break this up into specific programs such as risk, communication, process management, etc. Make sure you have a clear understanding of what you want to measure.
- Evaluate your current environment and any existing measurement programs and see if they're accurately measure all the elements of your security program.
- If you have existing measurement processes, decide whether you're going to retrofit them or build new measurement processes from scratch.
- Establish an approach to building and implementing your measurement processes. As you build your programs and processes, keep in mind the scope and the resources your team will need to keep up with the number of measurements you want to perform.
- Choose measurement methods that line up with your business needs. These can be qualitative, quantitative, or some combination of both.



- Implement new processes as you retrofit and build them. Maintain an open feedback loop to identify areas for improvement during implementation and execution.

- Implement a central discovery location where you can keep all findings from your measurement activities. Maintaining these discovery and findings will keep everything organized and ready to be communicated.

- Integrate measurement with your communication system. Keep it simple in the beginning and make changes as your measurement and communication continue to mature. Make sure that your communication system is bidirectional, and that any information from your key stakeholders can reach the team conducting the measurements.



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