
BAE SYSTEMS
Enhance your security operations with business defence

Business Defence

Organisational reputation, credibility and how your business communicates with its customers and suppliers: all of these things go together to define competitive advantage.

Technology is often the conduit through which advantage is delivered. If you can't deliver this securely, any competitive advantage evaporates. This is why thinking of IT security in isolation can be a limiting activity. It's sometimes better to think in terms of defending the business, from technology all the way up to process and people.

Your organisation has to be different

A business that can offer customers something no other company can will be successful; every commercial organisation consequently strives to prove it is different. Finding that unique selling point, product feature, delivery mechanism or cost efficiency are primary activities. They're the reasons for customers to buy from one business rather than another, and constantly adapting and changing all of these things is what drives businesses to develop and ultimately grow.

This urge also means every organisation is necessarily, fundamentally, unique. Copy and paste security is not going to work, especially when the unique DNA of a business makes it attractive to attackers and vulnerable to particular attacks. Your risk and the tolerance of risk is also going to be unique to your business and not only driven by compliance and regulation, but also by the personality of your employees, directors, shareholders, suppliers and customers.

> Copy and paste security is not going to work

Different doesn't have to mean complicated

The pace of change enabled by technology is exciting, and gives rise to both the way customers and suppliers need to interact with your business. Organisations, when they're operating best, seek out the fastest and most cost effective way of harnessing these competitive advantages. IT operations need to deliver both financial and operational flexibility to support. This means allowing your business to apply new technologies with minimal capital investment, and increase expertise and levels of defence, reporting and board visibility of these with small or no increases to cost.

With sophisticated new attacks propagating at an accelerated rate, security is a top concern. This is evidenced by the growing number of C- level security executives, and by the intensive efforts of IT organisations to identify and address the gaps in their enterprise defences.

Six steps to upgrade your defence

If it is clear that security operations are due for an advanced upgrade, there are six things we focus on through this process. Improvement in these key areas of focus allows your organisation to upgrade its security to keep up with the pace of change and put it in a position where it's helping, not hindering, growth:

1. Bring together security silos
2. Increase business flexibility
3. Close the skills gap
4. Improve effectiveness of existing security technology investments
5. Reduce administrative complexity
6. Deliver increased budget efficiency.

Deciding on outside help – and keeping all the plates spinning

It is unlikely that you will have the time and resources and knowledge to improve everything all at once. In some cases, you may already have developed core competencies in areas which need little improvement. In others you only have the problem, without the organisational experience to deliver the answers.

This is business as usual: like spinning plates, there are elements of your security operations that are revolving nicely, and others that will take time and effort to get up to speed. Like plates, taking focus away from what's working now, to focus attention on that which is faltering can leave the spinning plates to slow and eventually topple.

So, how can you all keep these metaphorical plates spinning at the required speed?

With the increasing pressure of change the unrelenting advance of threats and the widening skills and staffing gaps, the majority of organisations will feel the pressure to outsource and call in help as part of both their short term and long term strategies, searching for efficiencies and cost savings or adding hard-to-gain and advanced capabilities and approaches without the internal development time and capital expenditure expense.

Outsourcing bits of your security operations seems to be a way of achieving this. But is this the right solution for you, or will this bring other headaches and actually deliver the security you need as opposed to check boxes? Can you feel confident that this doesn't create more gaps and silos which you may only find wanting when the worst happens?

Every company is comfortable with its own, very particular, level of risk. The structures of its IT security policies need to balance risk aversion with the need to deliver growth and maintain the ability to adapt to events, trends, and changing customer needs.

It is worth noting that even if you are driven to outsource by seeking cost saving efficiencies and budget pressures, failure to correctly integrate, align and truly connect could end up costing you more and opening more cracks for your data to seep out of.

The advantage of tailored outsourced security

Regardless of your reasons to seek outside help in enhancing your security, it is important that whatever service you implement and whoever you engage to provide this, this goes beyond simply filling a gap on paper and ticking a box. The enhancement needs to be built on whatever frameworks you need. The imperative is to increase connectivity of technology and people, increasing collaboration of human and machine, ultimately closing the detection and response gap and easing the increasing pressure placed on all security operations.

Delivering concrete improvements to the way your business goes about protecting itself without disrupting good strategies, techniques, and employees in the process is the cornerstone of a solid business defence.

Every company is **comfortable** with its own, very particular, level of risk.

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