

CYBERSECURITY FOR SMALLER FINANCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

CEO CHECKLIST: CYBERSECURITY LEADERSHIP

GOVERNANCE

- Appoint a Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) if none exists.
- Establish and maintain an organization-wide cybersecurity policy that is risk-based and informed by international, national, and industry standards and guidelines.
- Define roles and responsibilities for all personnel involved in cybersecurity. Work with your CISO to identify proper cybersecurity roles and access rights for all levels of staff.
- Establish or identify clear communication channels between any separate units or personnel that deal with different aspects of cybersecurity.
- Ensure your CISO has a clear, direct line of communication to relate threats in a timely manner to you and to the board.
- Maintain a regular invitation for your CISO or other technical personnel to brief senior management.
- Check that cybersecurity policies, standards, and mechanisms are uniform across the entire organization.

RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

- Conduct a cybersecurity risk assessment in collaboration with your CISO or other technical personnel, which should include:
 - Describing your organization's assets and their various levels of technology dependency,
 - Assessing your organization's maturity and the inherent risks associated with its assets' technology dependencies,
 - Determining your organization's desired state of maturity,
 - Understanding where cybersecurity threats sit in your organization's risk priority list,
 - Identifying gaps between your current state of cybersecurity and the desired target state,
 - Implementing plans to attain and sustain maturity,
 - Continuously reevaluating your organization's cybersecurity maturity, risks, and goals, and
 - Considering protective measures such as buying cyber insurance.
- Analyze and present results to key stakeholders and the board.
- Plan to oversee any steps to increase cyber preparedness and monitor progress.

ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE

- Regularly discuss cyber risk and security at the leadership level.
- Ensure that cybersecurity training is part of all employee onboarding and have all employees sign documents agreeing to adhere to the organization's cybersecurity policies.
- Establish recurring cybersecurity training for all staff.
- Ensure that cybersecurity is always considered when the organization evaluates potential vendors and shares data with third parties.
- Institute an annual review of the organization's cybersecurity policies.
- Encourage technical personnel to engage in voluntary information sharing about cybersecurity threats and incidents.