

## FACTSHEET

# VIRTUAL CISO

Made to measure information security management

## VIRTUALLY PERFECT

A virtual Chief Information Security Officer (vCISO) is an information security leader, working as part of your organisation on an interim, medium or long term basis.

The vCISO provides security insight, assurance and guidance to senior management and drives the security agenda of the organisation.

**ORGANISATIONS IN ALL SECTORS ARE RECOGNISING THAT THEY CAN GET MORE "BANG FOR THEIR BUCK" BY RE-EXAMINING KEY SENIOR ROLES WITHIN THEIR OPERATION AND LEVERAGING THE EXPERTISE OF EXTERNAL PARTNERS**

**DEPLOYMENT OPTIONS CAN BE TAILORED TO SUIT OUR CLIENTS' NEEDS**

**A VCISO CAN BE APPOINTED TO DEFINE AND DRIVE THE CORPORATE SECURITY AGENDA, ESTABLISH KEY GOVERNANCE AND CONTROL FRAMEWORKS OR TO "FIRE FIGHT" KEY AREAS OF CONCERN ON A PROJECT-BY-PROJECT BASIS**

In a business environment where margins are tight and resources restricted, organisations are increasingly outsourcing or co-sourcing business functions to enable cost control and to focus on their core business activities. The traditional emphasis has largely been on administration, back office functions and IT service provision.

There has always been a high demand for technical expertise, particularly in the IT security arena. This makes senior officers expensive to obtain, expensive to retain, and knowledge expensive to maintain within the organisation.

Following many years of providing similar services in finance and internal audit, we recognised that our management and technical security expertise could be of great value to clients on more than just an assignment-by-assignment basis.

Our vCISO can provide industry-wide security knowledge and business intelligence for significantly less than the cost of a full-time appointment. Where the pace of evolution is so rapid, external perspectives and intelligence are key to protecting a business and ensuring it is well placed to meet its strategic objectives and maximise opportunities to grow.

## WHY THE BUNKER

We have a wealth of cross-sector security leadership experience and our staff have performed CISO and other senior IT security roles in a range of organisations, including large corporates and SMEs. We provide the independence and credibility required to secure cross-business support and establish the information security function as a trusted ally to management and front-line staff alike.

As companies are being driven to do more with less, the Internal Audit (IA) function has become a prime candidate for strategic sourcing. Achieving effective IA capabilities need not require a significant level of investment in skilled resources, methods, training and technical infrastructure. In an outsource arrangement, The Bunker can perform all aspects of internal audit through full or partial outsourcing model. As part of a full outsource model we will provide input into your risk register, build the audit plan, perform all aspects of testing including continuous monitoring and following up of action plans, attend audit committees, and liaise with external auditors and other third parties. In a partial model we will execute the annual audit programme as determined by the Audit Committee, follow up on agreed action plans and report formally at the Audit Committee.

## BECAUSE LIFE IS COMPLICATED ENOUGH WE HELP PRIORITISE AND FOCUS ON WHAT IS IMPORTANT.

Our vCISO provides the interface between the business and the complex world of technical security operations ensuring clarity of purpose and effective communication.

Everything we do is specific and therefore relevant to your organisation. We won't reinvent the wheel but we don't do boilerplate either. Good practice is only good where it supports a valid business outcome.

## STRATEGY, GOVERNANCE AND POLICY

Our vCISO will work alongside the Chief Information Officer and/or other senior management to ensure long-term security plans are aligned to the business strategy.

The Bunker will help formulate the roadmap required to address the gap between where the client's security capability is today and where it needs to get to. Our vCISO has significant experience of formulating pragmatic and relevant strategy, policies, standards and procedures for organisations small and large, private, public, and not-for-profit.

The vCISO works with senior management to help them understand what they need to determine the health of their information security domain and the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that go along with this. The vCISO will develop the metrics and reporting to ensure that management have the latest status of their security risks when they need it.

The vCISO can draw upon The Bunker's knowledge base, industry insights and the expertise of our experienced team of professionals at all times. This provides an unrivalled ability to review and assess regulatory and legal compliance requirements (FCA, PRA, SEC, FED, Data Protection, PCI DSS, ISO27001 to name a few) and ensure that your operation is doing what is required of it. Importantly, this guarantees a comprehensive approach to any remediation required, and that investments made are aligned to strategy and overall business direction wherever possible.

## SECURITY ARCHITECTURE

The vCISO can work with your technical teams and also tap into our network of technology partners to ensure that your security technology and design remains relevant and fit for purpose but also anticipates and supports your organisation and its aspirations.

The vCISO will define and oversee the security testing and assessment regime, providing assurance that everything is working as it should. Our strong industry partnerships means the vCISO can ensure best value is obtained from all penetration and vulnerability testing activities.

## SECURITY OPERATIONS

Security operations are traditionally resource and technology hungry. Technologists frequently work in a vacuum with little or no input from the wider organisation.

Our vCISO will form the bridge between information security, IT operations and the rest of the organisation. Defined priorities and risk appetite from management will be established, and clear direction to IT on what the business needs will be provided. We can also independently facilitate tactical and strategic outsourcing, in-sourcing and co-sourcing decisions where skills do not exist or cannot be sustained in-house.

The vCISO can assist in defining and developing your security monitoring and alerting capability; provide relevant and timely information to the right people when they need it; and ensure that the mechanisms are in place to act upon potential incidents as they arise.

Most organisations run with minimal issues. However, when an incident materialises, we either see everyone wanting to get involved (from the CEO down) or everyone frozen in disbelief! Either way the result is usually chaotic leading to significant business interruption, financial distress and a dented reputation.

The Bunker's vCISO will provide full oversight of the major incident management process, engaging and communicating with relevant stakeholders and facilitating business decisions where necessary. People on the ground will receive clear and reasoned instructions enabling them to focus on doing their job. This way, incidents are contained, assessed and addressed to minimise damage and losses.

## SECURITY AWARENESS AND TRAINING

Despite all of the technologies at play, we firmly believe that ultimately information security is a people-centric activity. A significant proportion of breaches, data leaks and compromises have their root cause in human error or poor working practices.

Education and awareness is a core element of a CISO's role. Our vCISO can help with identification of training needs and the development and deployment of awareness training programmes across the business.

We pride ourselves on not holding onto our intellectual property for the sake of it. We freely transfer knowledge and mentor client staff in best practices, good governance and approaches to information management. This approach empowers and develops your own staff.

## VIRTUALLY THERE

Whatever your security need, if you don't have what you require at your fingertips our vCISO can be there for you. The Bunker can provide a completely tailored service to meet the demands of your organisation now and in the future.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

Effective management of security and information risk is critical—striking the right balance between protecting key assets whilst permitting a business to innovate, be agile and take full advantage of advances in technology.

The Bunker's vCISO is expert in modelling and prioritising security risks, defining pragmatic and practical remediation plans and providing robust, transparent risk reporting to senior management. Working with the operational risk function, information security can be integrated into the enterprise's overall view of risk.

The information security risk landscape is ever-changing so our industry-wide insight is invaluable in ensuring organisations can evolve their control environment in line with the changing threat.

## ABOUT THE BUNKER

The Bunker helps clients with high quality risk management including technology, assurance and advisory services.

The Bunker understands the challenges businesses face as they grow. Appropriate professional advice at the right time often makes the difference between success and failure. We're here to give you confidence that your processes are robust, your assets are secure and your business is compliant. Pragmatic, professional, personable: we're your trusted advisors helping your business realise its potential.