Cyber Security for Project Managers

(Swimming in shark infested waters with an anchor attached to your neck while wearing a meat suit.)

PMI WEBINAR, 2021-10-13

Agenda

- Introduction

- The meat suit (valuable assets)

- Shark infested waters (threats)

- The anchor attached to your neck (understanding risk)

- Success / Disaster Avoidance

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Chris Culina

- Founder of Secunor

- KPMG, BDO, NSM and others

- Technical background (forensics and incident response)

- Cyber security advisory/consulting and threat/incident management

Information and valuable assets

Everyone knows Verdi's "La Donna è mobile", if only from the commercials featuring authentic Italian pizzas and pasta sauces.

There's a parallel between Verdi and information security.

This aria was not shown to the tenor Mirate until a few hours before the *première*. Verdi then gave him the music, bidding him not to sing, whistle, or think the melody outside the theater. The composer exacted similar promises of the orchestra, the chorus, and every one present at the rehearsal. The reception of the air proved his wisdom in taking these precautions. The house burst into applause before the tenor had finished

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GIUSEPPE VERDI

the first verse, and when the audience had filed from the theater "La donna è mobile" could be heard whistled and sung throughout Venice.

Everyone has valuable information assets

- Financial assets
- IPR
- Know-how
- Operational capability
- Reputation
- Strategic information
- PII

- and
- many
- many
- more.
- Seriously.
- We could
- go on and on.

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Organizations have difficulties identifying their information assets

- How do you protect something you don't know you have?

- How do you help the organization identify valuable information assets?

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With value comes risk

- We often talk about different types of risk

  - Financial risk

  - Reputation risk

  - Information risk

  - Cyber risk...

- It can definitely be useful, as long as you don't think cyber risk is something the IT department is responsible for.

If it can affect and potentially destroy the organization, it's most definitely business risk, which belongs to the board and senior management.

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Cyber risk summarized

- Digital crime has evolved from an exclusive club of experts and nation states to a highly diversified underground market that supports entrepreneurs and opportunists

- This development has made the threat landscape a lot more chaotic

- The high number and breadth of threat actors have lead to varied motivation

- In short: Everyone has digital assets that are of interest to someone, and a motivated threat actor can, with low cost and risk, damage or steal those assets from anywhere at any time.

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"The threats are worse than you realize, but not as bad as you would like to imagine."

- Robert M. Lee

Risk understanding

- Fire 🔥

  - Most of us will never experience a fire

  - Still, we all "know" the risk and act accordingly

  - Money out the window?

- Cyber: Lack of empirical understanding and physical properties

  - What's the threat?

  - What are vulnerabilities?

  - Value to me vs. value to others

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Risk analysis

- When choosing a methodology/framework/tool, remember
  - Shit in, shit out

- Probability is often problematic when dealing with motivated and adaptive threat actors

- Probability is problematic when you lack insight, e.g. about your own vulnerability

- Performing an assessment that forms a basis for a decision is more important than choosing the right method or model.

Success / Disaster Avoidance

- Your friend, security governance
  - Policies
  - Procedures
  - Correctly placed risk ownership

- Security controls in line with risk
  - Risk informed – securing assets while balancing risk and cost
  - Likely not your job

- Residual risk in line with risk acceptance
  - A new project could challenge existing policies, procedures and risk assessments
  - Might be your job

- Seeking advice and support from SMEs
  - Your job

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Questions?

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