Reporting Effectively to Your Key Business Stakeholders

While cybersecurity is managed by an organization's information security team, the Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for oversight of the program and major risks. So, when this cybersecurity's CISO needed to clearly and confidently report on its security posture and progress to the Board and other key executive stakeholders, they invested in the Blue Lava Security Program Management platform.

RESULTS	BEFORE	AFTER BLUE LAVA
Data Quality	Obscured and outdated	**Holistic view with actionable insights**
Time-to-Value	Months to realize and a manual process	**Value within days**
Reporting Efficiencies	1:1 reactive, ad hoc reporting	**1: Many reporting; a strategic security roadmap**

Customer Profile

The customer, a seasoned CISO from a leading cybersecurity company with a global presence and appx. $1B in annual revenue, wanted a more effective narrative and streamlined board reporting process. With ever-increasing attention to the cybersecurity program, he needed to tell the story of how his program has evolved over time, the return on the investments being made as well as the justification for new initiatives.

Challenge

This large cybersecurity technology company had previously attempted to run its own security assessment following NIST-CSF, and then engaged with a Big Four consulting firm to run their assessment. In both cases, there was a heavy burden on the CISO to shepherd the data collection, ensure its accuracy and consistency, as well as interpret the results and translate them into a clear and compelling strategy.

While this data gathering was an essential step in the process to help validate their initial findings, the company's CISO still had to rely on a tsunami of spreadsheets and manual, ad hoc reporting to assess progress on maturity initiatives. And even with the independent 3rd party assessment, there was a lack of transparency into underlying details that are critical to having the right context to make critical decisions.

With multiple internal stakeholder audiences now interested in the program's progress, including a newly formed cybersecurity subcommittee's meeting less than a month out, the CISO was challenged to not just assess and set the security program strategy, but to communicate it to a non-technical audience laser-focused on the topic. The CISO personally spent over 100 hours per quarter preparing for these meetings - time that could have been put to running the program or setting their next large initiative. They therefore recruited Blue Lava to support their security program management and board-level reporting.

Solution

By synthesizing the various inputs and data sources into the Blue Lava Security Program Management (SPM) platform, they were able to uncover trends, demonstrate progress, and clearly articulate the strategic plan and roadmap in a concise business narrative—all in a fraction of the time.

Better Board Reporting

By consolidating data into one seamless platform, this enabled the development of a strategic plan and the flexibility to support the CISO's preferred communication framework clearly and concisely.

Clear and Simple Board Communications

CISO Dashboard Prepared

Security assessment results
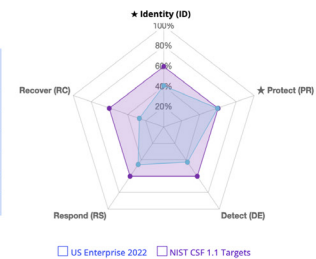
Top 5 strengths
1. Business continuity
2. Security operations
3. Incident management
4. Security logging
5. Security monitoring

Top 5 risks
1. Engineering & SDLC
2. Database administration
3. Application Security
4. Information Security
5. Network Security

NIST CSF v 1.1 security maturity

NIST function	Current	Target
Identify	40%	60%
Protect	60%	60%
Detect	42%	60%
Respond	43%	60%
Recover	28%	60%
Average	**42.6%**	**60%**

☐ US Enterprise 2022   ☐ NIST CSF 1.1 Targets

Blue Lava Confidential

Managing various maturity initiatives and budget asks, the CISO didn't have an apples-to-apples comparison to show trending over time or return on investment. With Blue Lava's platform, he was able to gather evidence asynchronously, resulting in a significantly faster time-to-value. And because the intake process was independent and fully transparent, he could go back and review the source data.

Upon several successful board committee meetings, where the CISO provided consistent, clear and compelling updates, he was able to establish credibility and trust, easing the reporting burden further with less frequent reviews. This not only meant more time focused on protecting the organization, but also better focus and discussion on the critical decisions and tradeoffs inherent in all cybersecurity initiatives.

BLUELAVA

Blue Lava empowers you to effectively communicate priorities, needs, recommendations and results to your larger community of business and finance stakeholders, pivoting from reactive to proactive decision making. Communicate security program results and needs to business stakeholders with consistency and ease.

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