Raising the Profile of Cyber Risk at Airports

Questions and considerations around organizational support for cybersecurity



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Important Question

Which airport employee should be fired after a cyber breach?



State of Cyber@ US Airports

- Good progress in the industry
 - ACI BIT and Cyber Security Task Force
 - Greater support from federal government
 - Increase in services, training, testing
 - Greater knowledge sharing
 - Introduction of standardized frameworks

- Problems Remain
 - Severity, Scope, and Support



State of Cyber@ US Airports - Severity

- Target on our backs
- 2/3 of ransomware attacks: gov't agencies
- 75+ state and local agencies in 2019 (so far)
 - Given that most US airports are local/state owned...

- MSPs now a major target
- Ever-shifting threat landscape



State of Cyber@ US Airports - Scope

- Hard to scale full programs to smaller airports
- Implementation highly variable
 - No industry-wide standard
 - Differences based on size/funding/ownership
- No mandate
 - No airport-specific cyber laws and regs
 - State laws variable
- Minimal 3rd Party Risk Management



State of Cyber@ US Airports - Support

- Conversation still being led by IT
- Lack of internal support
- Minimal understanding of issue
- **Tension** between departments
- Unrealistic expectations



Who's Accountable?

- Ultimately, the **CEO or Director is**
- Cyber risk management determined by:
 - Laws and regulations (a must!)
 - Strategic plans and strategic intent
- Business defines what must be protected
- Loses effectiveness in reverse:
 - No organizational buy-in
 - Might be addressing the wrong risks
 - Unnecessarily impacting lines of business



Who's Responsible?

- Management must implement
- "Security is everyone's responsibility..."
 - Not simply about reporting phishing emails
 - Data Owners vs System Owners
 - Classification
 - **Co-development** of policy and controls
 - Continual testing
- Silos and politics need to be put aside
- Concept of cyber-physical convergence



Important Question

Should the CIO be able to unilaterally override the CISO?



Who's In Charge?

- There **must** be a cybersecurity team
 - That can take many forms
 - Internal hires, managed services
- The tension between cybersecurity and IT
- The "CISO of 2019" is the "CIO of 1999"
 - Should cybersecurity team report into IT?
- Rise of the CSO at airports?
 - Back to the concept of cyber-physical convergence



In Summary

- Continually evolve, control, test
- Raise the conversation beyond IT
- Get business leaders to own the risk
- Gain control of your 3rd party risk
- Break down silos and co-develop
- Consider modern org structures
- Standardize industry before it's forced upon us

