

## Governance

### Key Questions:

- How many organisations would deny that information has now become the lifeblood of the business, on which the competitive advantage of the organisation is based?
- How many organisations would claim to be able to manage risk to their key asset, information?
- Do you know what your key information assets are? Do you know who would like to compromise the confidentiality, integrity or availability of those assets?
- Do you have a structured way of looking after these assets and holding people accountable for managing this properly?
- Do you know how well you maintain compliance against the standards and legislation that allow you to complete your business activity within the bounds of the law?
- Does the security team add business value?

Answers to these questions can be varied depending on the maturity of the way that information risk and compliance is governed in your organisation.

### Governance

Implemented properly, Governance is a process that sets a consistent direction and authority for making decisions at all levels, helping to

drive an organisation forward whilst managing risk so that decisions are made within bounds that the organisation deems as 'safe'. This envelope could be dictated by the exposure of the organisation to harm (financial, reputational) or even the ethics or culture of the business. It's a direction that's set at the top of the organisation - in a strategy - and driven downwards in a way that involves everyone, so that people can make decisions at appropriate levels in order to drive the organisation forward safely and in conformance with its values.

This mindset is not new and has long been applied to organisational level thinking, for example your Business Strategy and Plan for the next few years; the processes and hoops that have to be negotiated in order to invest in different areas of the business or make acquisitions.

So why isn't the same rigour often applied to information, the asset that's rapidly becoming the competitive differentiator?

There are many reasons; perhaps the intangible nature of 'information', the lack of maturity in this developing space or perhaps many see information as IT's problem and not yet a core part of the business.

Whatever the reason, not having clear Governance around the management of information, and the risks to which your information is exposed can be a significant business problem; a latent risk that perhaps is not noticed at a strategic

level until things go really wrong. The press over the last few years or more have brought examples of not governing how information is protected adequately to our attention, and has in some cases either destroyed the company, ruined its reputation and usually had a significant effect on the organisation's balance sheet.

business safe; preserving and helping to develop prosperity. All of this helps a security team demonstrate its business value.

## Establishing Effective Governance

Regency IT Consulting can help understand your organisation's challenges, identify your information assets and value these in a way that is meaningful to your business. From this activity, the threats to the information can be identified and therefore pragmatic measures taken to manage risks against compromising the confidentiality, integrity or availability of these valuable assets can be taken. Importantly, we can help set a strategic direction for this activity, and tie this into your organisation's existing governance processes so that the whole business can get involved, so that information risk is managed effectively and routinely as business as usually.

From this activity, we can help you understand and measure your compliance requirements against legislation and standards (for example, mandatory Government Standards for those transacting with the Public Sector) and drive activity as painlessly as possible towards compliance with these requirements.

This in turn helps people understand the value of managing information risk as it becomes a business-enabler, making a strong contribution to keeping the