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The Human Factor in Cybersecurity

As Chief Information Security Officer, my budget allocation strategy would be to split it in a 60/40 split in favor of human-centric security investments over new technology. The majority of the budget will be dedicated to building a continuous security awareness program which would include training based on phishing, social engineering, and data protection. This would foster a security-first culture where employees are empowered and feel accountable, transforming them from the weakest link into a crucial line of defense, as employees can become a crucial and effective line of defense for your organization (Mason, 2024). This human firewall offers the highest return on investment by directly mitigating the primary cause of security incidents. The remaining 40% will be used for targeted technological controls that deliver maximum defensive value and automate protection. Some would include basic multi-factor authentication (MFA) and more advanced technology like endpoint detection and response (EDR) to rapidly identify and contain threats that bypass initial defenses. I will also include more advanced automation technology that can significantly reduce detection time if I have the budget to allocate for it. Another idea I can think of to combat phishing emails is to upgrade to a better email system to effectively filter phishing emails before they even reach an employee's inbox. I think this balanced approach is a proactive response to the modern threat landscape where cybercriminals often target unsuspecting employees with social engineering and phishing emails. Investing in comprehensive training cultivates a resilient organizational culture that makes our technological safeguards more effective and sustainable, thus providing the strongest possible defense against evolving cyber threats.

References

Mason, Danielle. (2024). *Why is Cyber Security Awareness Training Important for Employees?*
BD Emerson. <https://www.bdemerson.com/article/why-is-cyber-security-awareness-training-important>