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Cybersecurity on a Budget

As the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), I would allocate 50% of the limited funds to advanced cybersecurity technologies, 40% to employee training, and 10% to policy. My budget would focus on building strong network defenses, while addressing the risks that come along human error and weak organizational policies.

Allocation of Funds

Cyber threats are not only a battle with technology, but a battle with human error too. Proofpoint reported that 74% of CISOs identified human error as their biggest cybersecurity risk (Proofpoint, 2024). Even with the most advanced technology, funds should be allocated to account for risks that come with uninformed users and a clear policy.

With these considerations in mind, I would put 50% of the budget towards advanced cybersecurity technologies like endpoint detection and response, firewalls, and email sandboxing. These technologies offer real-time defense against external threats and internal accidents. Following technologies, I would direct 40% to employee training such as simulated attacks, computer-based training, and security orientations. Offering various types of education will help to reduce human error by ensuring that employees are informed and aware of their digital responsibility. Finally, the remaining 10% would support the creation and enforcement of policies. Policies ensure that there are clear guidelines for the use of organizational devices and handling of sensitive data.

Conclusion

No cybersecurity budget would be complete without the consideration of human contributions to cyber threats. With a limited budget, ensuring that the money is appropriately spread across technology, training, and policy is crucial to building long-term resilience. It acknowledges that the biggest risks come from human error and addresses them with advanced technology and clear expectations of users.

References

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