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Resilience in Cybersecurity

David Higgins, Chief Information Security Officer Kiwibank



About Me

- Technology & Cybersecurity Specialist since 1997.
- Regional Experience: UK / EMEA / APAC.
- Industry Experience:
 - Automotive, Pharmaceutical, Banking & Financial Services, Government, Marketing & Data Organisations.
- Security Experience:
 - Security Operations, Consulting / GRC, Leadership, Incident Response.
- Fascinated by People, something of an optimist.



My "Why"

Because we will always be a target for Cybercrime, but we don't have to be victims of it.



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Cybercrime – A Growth Industry

Unprecedented scale and unparalleled annual growth of incidents set the stage for a Resilience crisis in our industry

- 1. Global cybercrime revenues were estimated at \$1.5 trillion USD in a 2018 study of the industry. (1)
- 2. If measured as an economic output, cybercrime would have the 13th largest GDP globally.
- 3. Top targets: Financial Services, Energy, Professional Services, Government Agencies, Healthcare.
- 4. ~8 fold increase in incidents reported to CERT annually since being established in 2017. (2)
- 5. 70% of Organisations say Cybersecurity skills shortages have impacted them & their objectives. (3)
- 6. Up to 88% of CISOs consider themselves to be under moderate or high stress, with 48% stating it impacts their mental health. (4)

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⁽¹⁾ Bromium / HP Wolf Security – Into the Web of Profit - https://www.bromium.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Into-the-Web-of-Profit Bromium.pdf

⁽²⁾ CERT NZ 2021 Report Summary - https://www.cert.govt.nz/about/quarterly-report/2021-report-summary/

⁽³⁾ ESG & ISSA Research Report: The Life & Times of Cybersecurity Professionals 2020 - https://www.esg-global.com/esg-issa-research-report-2020

⁽⁴⁾ Nominet Cyber Security – CISO Stress – Life Inside the Perimiter: One Year On - https://www.nominet.uk/nominet-ciso-stress-report-one-year-on/

Recognising Burnout



- Newcomers to the industry face a disturbingly steep learning curve.
- Fatigue & Burnout is a real threat to the Security Industry at all levels.
- Some signs of burnout...
 - Physical and emotional exhaustion, drained a significant amount of the time, and lacking energy to engage in activities as usual (social or athletic).
 - An increase in pessimism, self doubt, or feeling like a failure.
 - Feeling helpless, trapped, or defeated.
 - Isolating yourself from others.
 - Staying preoccupied with work even when you are off the clock.
 - A general decrease in satisfaction with everything.
- My only advice here: Be Kind

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Number of months of average CISO tenure

12-36

Number of months to burn out a Security
Analyst

On Coping...



Poorly

... But I'm getting better.

Classification: Public – for external use

On Getting Better...





Corporate Lead

- Set Realistic Expectations:
 - Incidents will happen
 - Cultural change takes years
- Security is a shared responsibility.
- Security is not something that is achieved, it is something that must be practiced. Foster that culture.
- Common understanding of Risk in the organisation.



Team Lead

- Creating a team culture, based on mutual trust, which encourages experimentation and failure as part of role growth.
- Humanising the role of security as a people-led practice.
- Share the dream the Why, the How, and the What.
- Understand our Attackers.



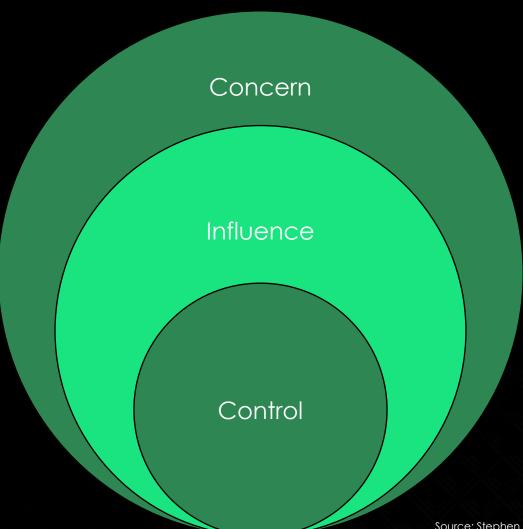
Personally

- Practicing Self-Care
- Deconstructing the Hero
 Complex
- Prioritising Life over Work
- Recognising my own
 Vulnerabilities

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On Getting Better...





- Circle of Control Small, things I am able to manage directly.
- Circle of Influence Much larger, where common ground, collaboration, and mutually beneficial outcomes live. Must be actively grown.
- Circle of Concern Whatever is on my mind, but I can neither control, nor influence.
- Proactive Approach Focused on what I can Control & Influence, enlarges Circle of Influence.
- Reactive Approach Focused on Concerns, reduces the Circle of Influence.

A finite amount of time & energy can be applied to either a Proactive or Reactive approach, and it cannot be reused.

Source: Stephen Covey – 7 Habits of Highly Effective People (1989)

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On Being Prepared...

Rick Rescorla



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Questions