Six smart steps to cyber security

Cyber security affects us all – the Cyber Risk Symposium delivered delegates with genuine clarity regarding the global threat environment and also provided important insights about what practical actions organisations can take to make a difference.

Here are six smart steps to cyber security that we can help clients with now.

Identify the black hats: Professor Greg Austin from the Australian Centre for Cyber Security said that there are nine major sources of attack. Working out which of your data is most vulnerable and who or what is most likely to go after it are important first steps in taking control of cyber security.

Map your cyber borders: The rules about information systems are in flux. DLA Piper partner Scott Thiel said organisations needed to be aware of the different rules around the world, and work out the most effective way to comply. Taking a smart approach can deliver a competitive edge.

Implement technology protections: Tim Fitzgerald chief security officer and VP Symantec said organisations should deploy modern technologies and smart processes to limit the risk of attack, and identify breaches early. And since cyber criminals are constantly on the move it's critical to update security technology and refresh education programmes regularly.

Insure appropriately: There's a point where the benefits of additional security technology investment diminishes, and companies need instead to turn to cyber insurance to reduce risk. Kevin Kalinich, Aon's global cyber practice leader, said organisations needed to rigorously assess exposures and seek appropriate insurance cover.

Have a plan: Trying to work out how to respond in the heat of the moment, when your systems have already been attacked, is far from ideal. Best to plan ahead so that everyone knows what to do if and when it happens, and to have agreements in place with lawyers, insurers, forensic analysts and security specialists well in advance.

Revisit, review, refresh: Cyber security is not static. Organisations need to regularly review the threat landscape, their cyber borders, security technology and staff education programmes, their insurance protection and response plan in order to protect the organisation and reduce risk.

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