



Embedded Security Consultants

Your team from as few as 2 days per month.

Helping organisations identify, understand, reduce, manage and respond to cyber risk



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MANAGING CYBER SECURITY WITH SMALLER TEAMS

Cyber security has never been more important yet security teams and budgets are as limited as ever. How will you navigate security risk in the future?

Organisations commonly face a struggle of getting the right balance between the size of their investment in security and the risk of under investment. Getting this wrong can have disastrous consequences.

Economic uncertainty and a global shortage in cyber security skills promise to keep security teams and budgets lean for some time. However, a perfect storm has arrived where malicious threat actors looking for ever new inventive ways of breaching an organisation's security defences are being met with low levels of security maturity due to historical under investment or challenges in finding senior security specialists. To borrow terminology from the world of risk management; you may choose to **'accept'**, **'share'** or **'modify'** the risks of reducing security investment and teams.

Simply accepting the risk or doing nothing puts organisations in a real hot seat when an incident occurs and an endless list of interested parties (employees, customers, partners, regulators and shareholders) appear, each keen to explore the cause and whether negligence has been a contributing factor.

Sharing the risk by outsourcing the task of managing security in its entirety is high cost and puts an organisation at risk as a full transfer of responsibility is unachievable. The answer to this is a hybrid model



**Manage
security with
embedded
Security
Consultants**

THE HYBRID SECURITY MODEL

A NEW WAY OF WORKING

Modifying the risk with a hybrid in-sourced and out-sourced model can be an attractive way of handling a future where organisations are forced to reduce the size of internal teams. In the hybrid model, Cortida provide skilled senior consultants in full time internal roles through Embedded Security Consultant Agreements. These bring new possibilities through contracts that start from 2-3 day per month and can save employers time, money and effort. Such agreement allow your organisation to rapidly accelerate security projects or complement tight internal teams.

Embedded Security Consultancy Agreements can be used to bring focus on strategic, security compliance or operational security activities.

STRATEGY AND LEADERSHIP

Activities can include ensuring:

- an appropriate cyber and information security vision and strategy exists
- appropriate security technologies are used
- change and risk requirements are assessed for security implications.
- continuous security is maintained.
- a security awareness culture
- legal and contractual security obligations are met
- security incidents are navigated with a calm experienced, responsive hand

Senior strategic consultants also tasked to create and deliver board reporting

CONTINUOUS COMPLIANCE

- **Activities can include ensuring:** compliance obligations are understood
- appropriate security destinations are targeted
- compliance programmes are actively managed
- the required weekly, monthly and annual assessments are undertaken and assessed
- the third-party supply chain is managed and you remain audit-ready



**Ensuring security
vision and strategy**

STRATEGY, COMPLIANCE & SECOP'S

SECURITY OPERATIONS

Activities can include ensuring:

- critical patches and security updates are applied with a low level of cadence
- logs are reviewed for indicators of compromise
- events and incidents are investigated and escalated
- new vulnerabilities are understood and assessed for risk
- network documentation and system inventories are maintained

Beyond the strategic, compliance and security operations categories discussed above, there are two other critical areas that are commonly overseen by an Embedded Security Consultant, these are Secure Development and Secure DevOps.

SECURE DEVELOPMENT

Activities can include ensuring:

- industry standards are applied to a formal secure software development lifecycle
- development standards are developed improve code quality
- code quality analysis and reviews are undertaken
- automated testing is undertaken

SECURE DEVOP'S

Activities can include ensuring:

- barriers between software development and IT operations are removed
- automation of the application of secure cloud configuration standards such as CIS. containers are used for robust applications that can't be compromised.
- penetration tests are specified for testing and managed

With Embedded Security Consultant Agreements the Lead Consultant is able to leverage the skills and experience of colleagues with who he or she is familiar with respects and has worked with on a wide range of projects over many years. Although a single lead consultant is nominated per agreement, they are backed by widest range of knowledge, support resources and oversight. Crucially, the relationship between customer and supplier can exists long after the end of a formal term.



**Monitoring your
indicators of risk**

World-class Security Consulting

ABOUT CORTIDA INFORMATION AND CYBERSECURITY CONSULTANCY

Cortida is the home of information and cybersecurity risk management. We favour 'appropriate' security measures over their costly, convoluted alternatives. Learning and understanding your business, its objectives and your attitudes and appetite for risk mean that we can better protect them. We measure how data supports or threatens your objectives and dismiss any unnecessary and costly audits of your security. Our focus is reliability, technical expertise, a personable partnership approach and delivering tangible value to your organisation. This allows us to identify, understand, reduce and manage your security risk.

The Cortida partnership approach: Establishes an understanding of your organisation's objectives and attitudes towards risk, assesses your organisations data to determine its importance and value and need for protection and Includes a reasoned assessment of the risk, based on probability and likelihood of loss or incident

WORLD CLASS EXPERIENCED, RISK-BASED & APPROPRIATE ADVICE

Cortida consultants are hand picked for their ability to apply experience and intelligent thinking to security challenges. Each has excellent demonstrable experience and collectively the experience spans numerous security domains, industries and organisations of varying size, geographical distribution, complexity, needs and attitude towards risk.

Few projects are too small, too big or too far away and every project is approached with Cortida's founding principles of delivering risk-based advice and being mindful that security advice must support rather than constrain an organisation's objectives.

Reducing risk at the fastest rate



Are you shining a light in the right places and checking for the right measures?

Information and cybersecurity assessments illuminate risk and establish whether efforts are focused on what matters most to your organisation.



CALL NOW AND FIND OUT HOW RISK ASSESSMENTS REDUCE RISK AND COST



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