CISO Communication Competency Checklist

Strong cybersecurity needs clear communication. How well are you communicating?

As a security leader, it's not enough to understand the risks—you need to ensure that others do too. Use this checklist to measure how effectively you're translating complex cybersecurity concepts into clear, actionable insights. It's your guide to aligning with business goals and securing buy-in from key stakeholders.

Quick–Check Questions

Can you answer these?

1

Explain the current state

Can you describe your organization's cybersecurity posture to a non-technical colleague in 45-60 seconds?

✓ Clear explanations build trust with stakeholders outside of IT. Break down complex security terms into everyday language.

2

Defend your assessment

Could you confidently defend your assessment of cybersecurity risks and measures to an attorney, as if you were an expert witness in front of a jury?

✓ Being able to back up your decisions with data and sound reasoning is critical for maintaining credibility.

3

Highlight key events

Can you create a list of 5-10 important security events that have occurred within your organization over the past month?

✓ Staying aware of recent incidents helps you demonstrate vigilance and preparedness to your leadership.

Make your effort count

4

Link cybersecurity spending to value

Can you relate your organization's spending on cybersecurity to quantifiable and demonstrable contributions to its success or value?

✓ Business leaders want to know that cybersecurity investments have a clear return. Show how your initiatives directly impact the bottom line.

5

Create a business case

Can you build a business rationale for taking on new cybersecurity projects that would provide benefits similar to initiatives in Sales, Marketing, or Finance?

✓ Framing cybersecurity projects in terms of business benefits makes it easier to secure buy-in from non-technical teams.

6

Connect the dots to business impact

For any of your reports, recommendations, or alerts, can you explain why this is important to the bottom line, mission, or survival of your organization?

✓ Bridging the gap between cybersecurity and business outcomes ensures that decision-makers see the value in your recommendations.

What to do with your results

> If you couldn't confidently answer all of these questions, consider partnering with an expert who can help you communicate cybersecurity effectively to stakeholders.

> At NuHarbor Security, we help security leaders refine their messaging and align cybersecurity efforts with business goals. Contact us today to learn more about how we can support your communication strategy.

Ready to take your communication skills to the next level?
Reach out to NuHarbor Security for a free consultation.

Schedule now