

■ ■ ■ ■ Being A CISO

# Sitting in the Hot Seat

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March 10, 2016

# Who Is Eric and Why Should I Pay Attention?

- Over 30 years experience – military and civilian
- A decade as a CISO
  - Medi-Cal – largest Medicaid insurance program
  - Providence Health & Services – Catholic Healthcare
- VP, Strategy & Security, Core Security
- Executive Consultant and Coach

# What The CISO Was

- Role first came into existence early 2000's
- Technology leader in CIO organization
- Typically a skilled engineer
- Passionate about security
- Often Authoritarian
- Response to early security crises
  - Code Red, Nimda, Melissa, ILOVEYOU, SQL Slammer

# What The CISO Is

- 2006 – 2010 – IT leader with business savvy
- 2010– 2013 – Security compliance leader
- 2013 – Now – Business leader with security savvy
  - Must understand business strategy and drivers
  - Must also be steeped in security
  - AND be able to lead a soup to nuts security program

# To Be A CISO ...

- You are going to need solid experience
- Spend time as a manager
- Spend time as a technologist
- Have solid education credentials
- Collaborative people person
- Persuasive, able to sell

# To Be Effective ...

- Understand Security technologies
  - Network structure, anti-virus, Identity Management, Vulnerability Management, Offensive Security, Penetration Testing, Application Security ....
- Leadership – team, peers, executives, board
- Understand modern IT systems and structures
- Understand business management
  - Manage a P&L, HR issues, Department organization

# What's It Like? A Week In The Life

- Highly varied day to day
- Interact with a wide variety of people
- Budget, strategy, operational planning
- Incident Response
- IT operations
- Line of business leaders
- Friday! Argh

# What's It Like? The Challenges

- Fellow business leaders
- Dealing with your team
- Managing budgets
- Vendor Management
- The Unknown
- The Middle of the Night



# What's It Like? The Complexity

- Intersection of business and technology
- Being a horizontal business leader
- How you view yourself
- How the organization views you
- The CIO
- The CFO

# There Are Definitely Risks

- Security Incidents, of course
- Unhappy business leaders
- Change Management
- The CEO
- Life Expectancy

# But The Job Can Be Very Rewarding

- Solving complexity
- Safeguarding critical data and assets
- Collegiality
- Compensation
- Satisfaction

# Continuing The Conversation

- I do this for a living
- How to contact me
  - Twitter: @e\_cowperthwaite
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- Happy to expand upon this presentation

# Questions

