In today’s environment of broad and evolving threats, some are reducing their risk by integrating all cyber security activities into a single entity called a Cyber Fusion Center. These Fusion Centers are designed to bring together the disparate groups within an organization—fraud, loss prevention, cyber, IT, physical security, product development, and so on—to boost intelligence, enhance response speed, reduce costs, and leverage scarce talent. As a result, companies realize faster and more efficient threat awareness and mitigation before, during, and following a cyber breach.

There are three key areas to address as you consider the best way to stand up a Cyber Fusion Center within your organization:

1. **Consider how to best effect change in your organization.**
   Perhaps more than anything else, a Fusion Center is a change management program. Existing, stove-piped systems are typically the purview of different parts of the organization, which means you will need to resolve competing priorities to achieve successful cyber fusion. The culture of every organization is different, so understanding and making change happen in line with your culture is key.

2. **Identify and design around the synergies.**
   Although stove-piped, the systems that come together to form a Fusion Center perform many of the same function. Early identification of those common functions as well as the tools used to perform them—such as analytics products monitored by professional data scientists—will allow the most efficient designs to emerge. Eliminating that duplication of effort will maximize tools, processes, and human capital, driving out cost and increasing efficiency.

3. **Connect the dots for actionable intelligence.**
   Before you build your Cyber Fusion Center, configure a system to identify new patterns of adversary behavior and create actionable intelligence. Co-locating these functions will allow analysts to see patterns of malicious behavior across multiple information domains that may not have been readily visible in the past or that required out-of-band communications to identify. Modeling these intel processes in advance will allow for optimization and help identify ways to tailor intel and make it actionable.

By building a Fusion Center within your organization you can reduce costs, increase efficiency, and mitigate risk through actionable intelligence that greatly reduces latency of institutional response to adversary behavior.

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