

SEC

SECURITY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

A research and advisory firm

10 Actions Highly Accomplished Security Leaders Take

1. They position their programs proactively.

- Have the right tools/assets/people in the right place before an incident happens
- Understand the business and its needs
- Pay attention to internal trends



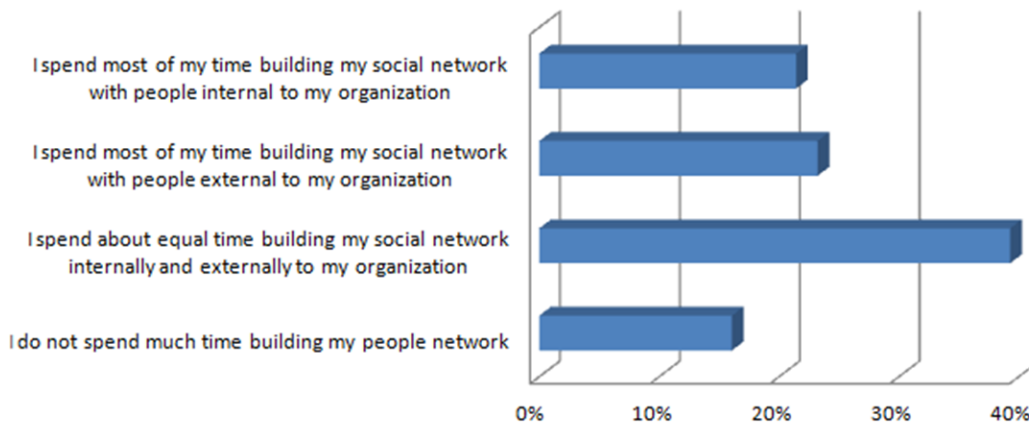
[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

Additional Resource: [Security Leadership: Security as a Business](#)

2. They build the right relationships – internally and externally.

- Strategic stakeholders, cross-functional team members
- Peers from within and outside their sector
- Public-private partnerships

For the benefit of your security programs roughly how much time do you devote to building your people networks internal to your organization as opposed to building connections with those outside of your organization?



© 2014 The Security Executive Council

- Create win-wins
- Adapt from others' experiences
- Develop preparedness networks

Additional Resource:

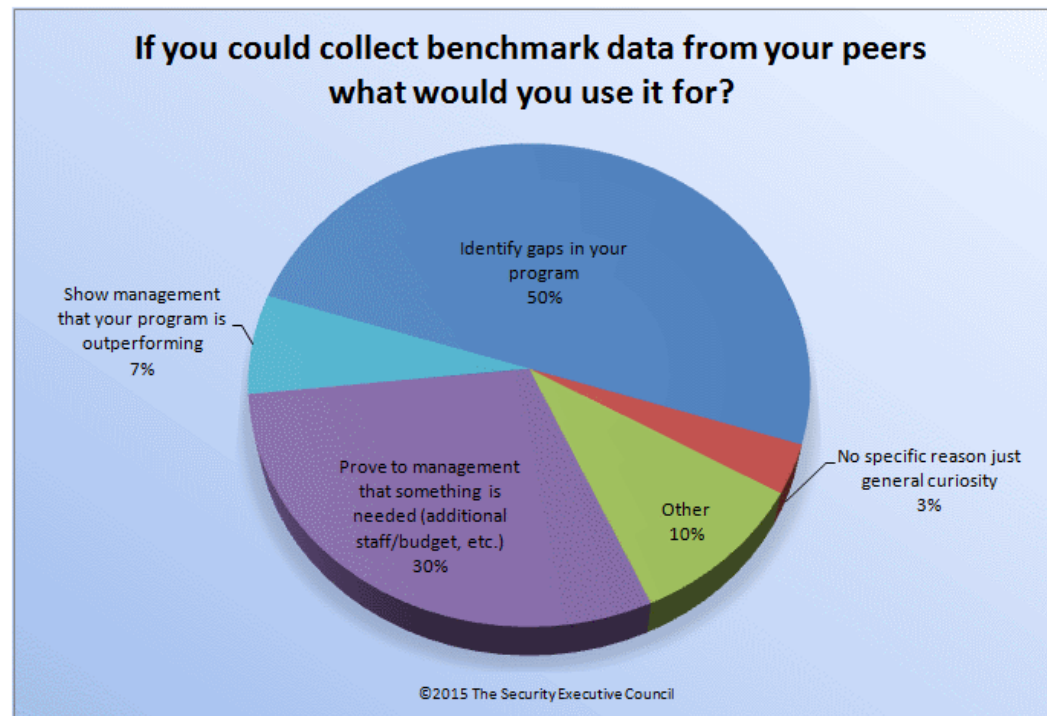
[What is the Most Important Characteristic of an Outstanding CSO/CISO?](#)

3. They foster an environment of sharing and document what they learn from others.

- Ask for insights and viewpoints of other leaders inside the organization and security pros from other companies
- Synthesize shared info into a cohesive solution
- Share their own data and experience with others who ask

Additional Resource:

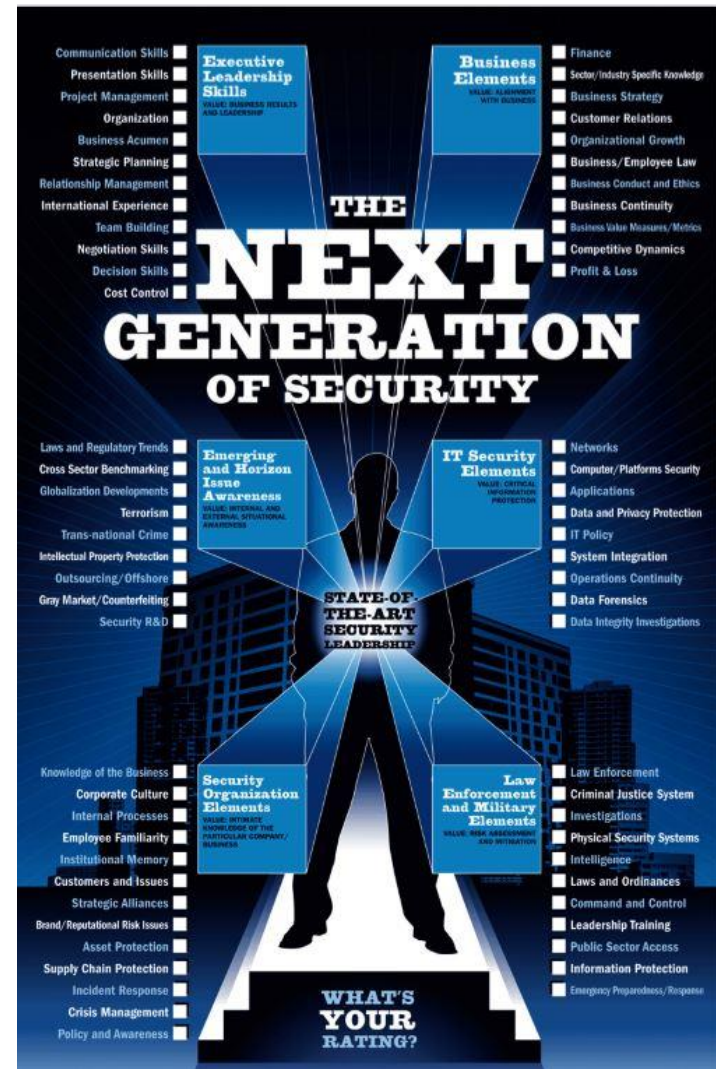
[Finding Value in Security Benchmarking](#)



4. They continually seek new knowledge.

- The risk landscape is always changing
- Organizations are constantly evolving
- Watch what senior management is watching, including world events, business trends

Additional Resource: [Security Program Strategy & Operations: Emerging Issues](#)



5. They focus on leadership issues.

- Leadership skills cross all sectors and services
- It's not about security, it's about the business



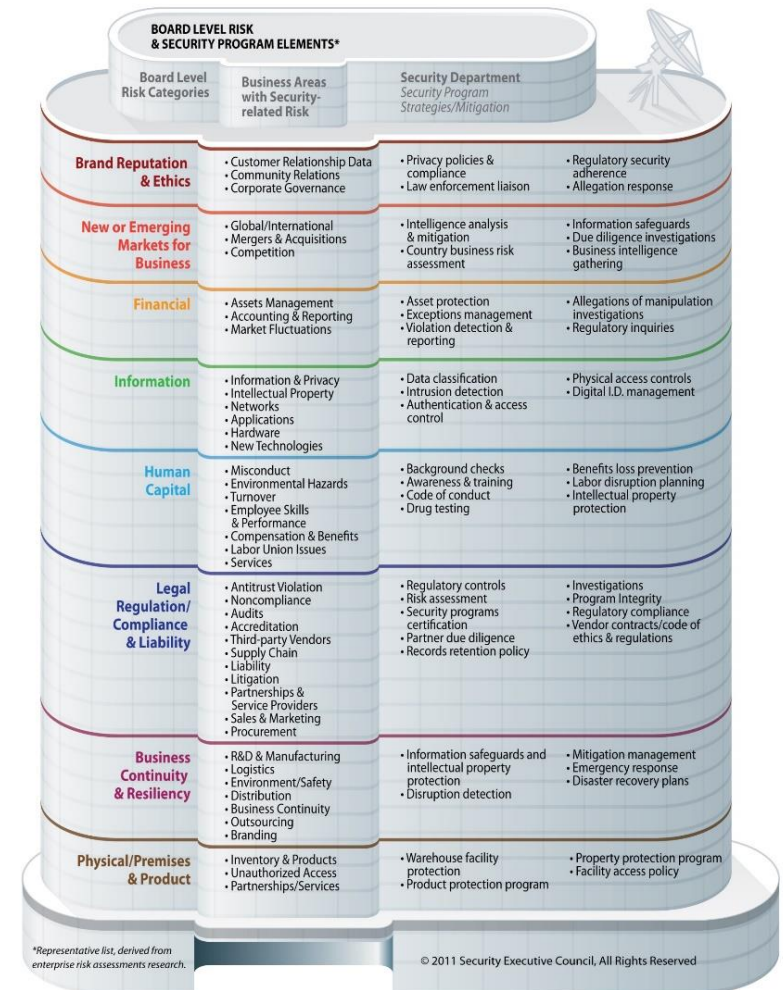
Additional Resource: [Next Generation Security Leader Resources](#)

6. They discuss risks and mitigation strategies in terms the Board "gets."

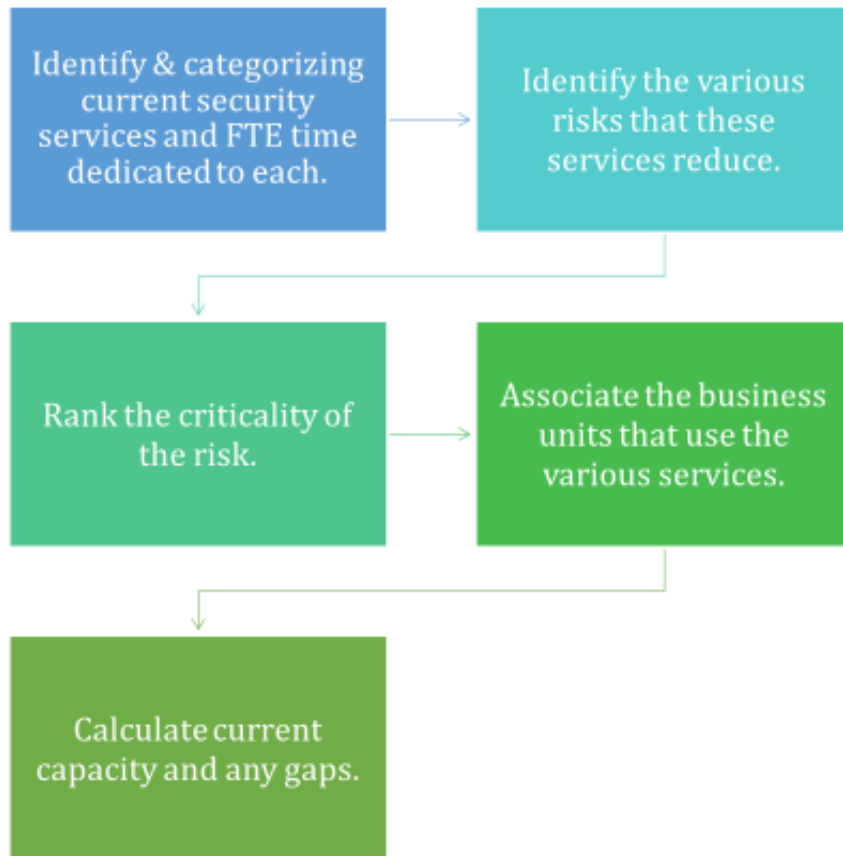
- How does the Board view risk?
- Identify the business processes in these risk areas with security components
- Map what the security function does to mitigate these risks
- This creates a dotted line between what security does and what the Board cares about

Additional Resources:

[Managing Enterprise-Wide Board Risk](#)



7. They run security as a business.



Copyright 2019 Security Executive Council

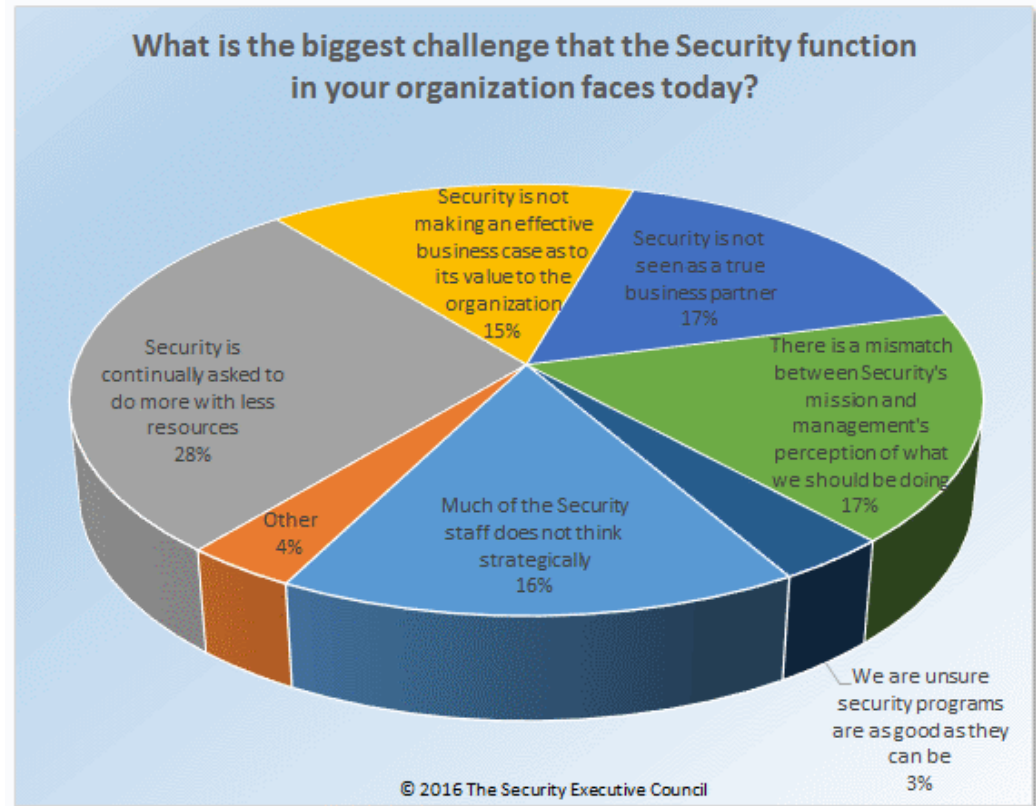
- Understand their internal customers and what they want or need
- Catalogue what security offers and its value
- Develop KPIs to measure that value
- Constantly communicate with stakeholders

Additional Resource:

[Influential Strategies for Corporate Security](#)

8. They take care of staff and help them grow.

- Teach staff to think strategically
- Create a team of leaders that the organization will view as experts
- Mentorship within the team will help draw stronger new job candidates as well



Additional Resource: [Next Generation Security Leader Program](#)

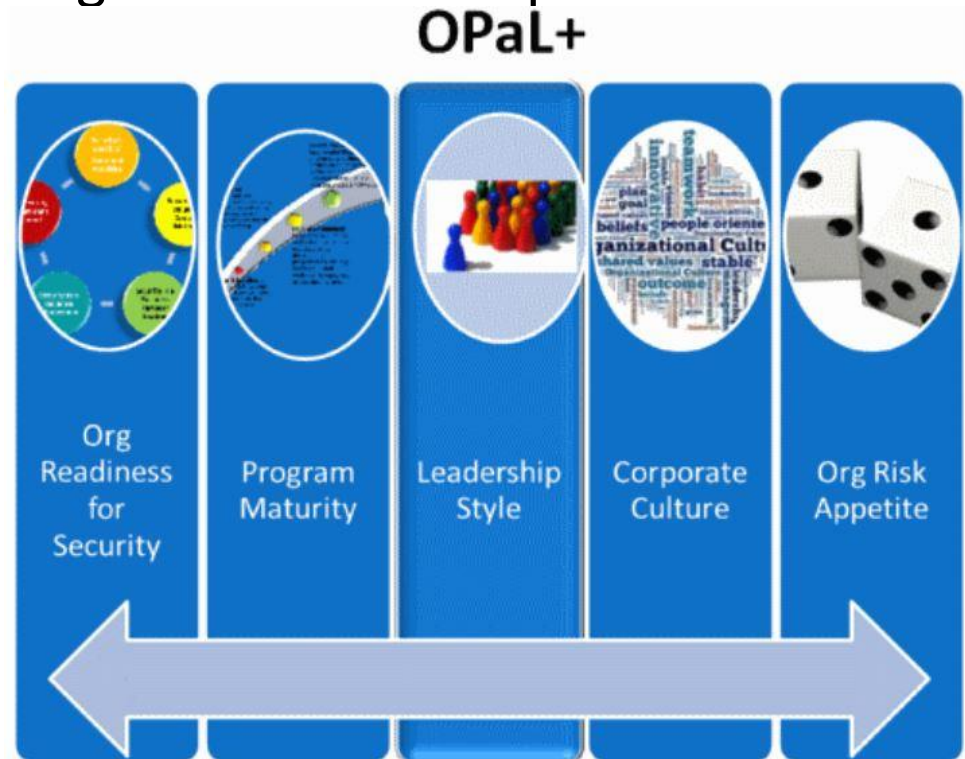
9. They recognize their organization is different from any other.

- There is no one “best” model for security
- The best choices for the organization will depend on:

- Organizational Readiness
- Program Maturity
- Leadership Style
- Corporate Culture
- Risk Appetite

Additional Resource:

[The OPaL+ Assessment Executive Summary](#)



©2018 The Security Executive Council

10. They prepare for future trends.

- Understand the industry and company
- Develop a skill set that blends security, IT, business expertise and the ability to identify and evaluate emerging issues
- Grow with the company
- Cultivate an imagination capable of finding opportunities that will add value



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

For more on the 10 Actions Successful Security Leaders Take, including interviews with SEC subject matter experts and more, visit [The Roadmap for Security Leadership Success](#)

About the Security Executive Council

The Security Executive Council is the leading research and advisory firm focused on corporate security risk mitigation strategies and plans. We work with security leaders to transform security programs into more capable and valued centers of excellence. For more information, visit us at <http://www.securityexecutivecouncil.com/>.