



LITHIFY
IT SECURITY DONE PROPERLY

Virtual CISO



What is a CISO?

Good security strategy is imperative in ensuring that organisations are able to work confidently. Misconfigurations, vulnerabilities and security “holes” cause multi-million pound losses every year, and many organisations would not survive a co-ordinated attack.

A Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) function is responsible for setting cyber security Strategy; safeguarding people, intellectual property, data and technology assets; making strategy recommendations to board members and reporting on posture development.

The objective is clear: to provide a confident and appropriate security posture, which serves the needs of the organisation in the short, medium and long term so that the business can focus on its value to customers, staff and shareholders, without fear of unwanted attacks.

Why Use a Virtual CISO?

Not all organisations have a dedicated role and most are unclear where to start or what’s appropriate for their business needs. Without a clear mandate for delivery, it can be hard to recruit the right team member or to define their value to the business.

Using a virtual CISO allows the organisation to use the services of an industry expert, achieve a confident, robust security posture and increase board confidence immediately and without the cost of a full-time employee. The role may be long-term or may act as a bridge to recruitment of a staff member in future.



Lithify's Virtual CISO Service (vCISO)

Lithify's Virtual CISO service provides the leadership and guidance necessary to develop and deploy an information security programme, manage the increasing risks and threats and protect your organisation's assets.

As an external advisor to your organisation, vCISO provides recommendations, thought leadership and objective feedback, collaborates with key stakeholders and implements strategies which ensure a secure, stable foundation for business.

An experienced, named individual will be assigned to your account, but their individual skills are backed by a team of industry experts, augmenting the individual with specialist knowledge across the security space.

vCISO Activities

Your vCISO will work with the board and wider team to:

- set strategic direction
- gain a detailed understanding of the current security posture and make recommendations based on its findings
- develop strategy plan – this should be flexible enough to cope with medium and long term business change, whilst specific enough to deliver in the short term
- identify the organisation's "crown jewel" assets and prioritise their protection
- understand relevant compliance requirements and plan for their attainment
- understand business priorities and use these to define strategy
- understand forthcoming business developments and ensure their needs are accommodated
- set cloud strategy, or secure existing cloud implementations
- provide secure, robust access for users whether working remotely or in the office
- roadmap to a confident, organisation-wide security posture
- ensure visibility of threats, vulnerabilities and health of key systems
- work with the wider team to increase security awareness throughout the workforce and to foster a "security culture"
- document security policies, procedures and networks



Likely Prerequisites

All organisations are different, but some constants endure in most engagements.

Security Posture Assessment

A clear understanding of the current situation is key to planning next steps.

A posture assessment looks at all areas of an organisation and notes in detail current arrangements, flaws and vulnerabilities. This information is vital in informing urgent activities and next steps and enables us to make quick improvements where necessary.

Security Awareness Training

A security aware culture is one of the most powerful defences for an organisation of any size. Training programmes take time, and so early implementation, assessment of the workforce (through phishing campaigns and so on) and an ongoing self-serve programme is useful. Such systems are easy to implement and provide valuable insight.

Compliance Audit

Many industries are bound by standards and external measures.

We work with your team to understand your obligations, assess current accreditations and to build a plan to attain and maintain compliance as appropriate to your organisation.



Getting Things Done

Talk and strategy are useless without execution.

The might of the Lithify technical team means that any resulting requirements can be easily and expertly undertaken: assessing current posture; identifying capability gaps and filling them; remediating and optimising existing investments; implementing new solutions where there is a clear justification and business case for improvement in capabilities.

The list of tasks and projects will be driven by requirements and the outcome of a posture but could include:

- Optimisation of current investments (e.g. firewalls, networks, security solutions) so that your organisation gets the most from existing systems. Lithify has experienced, accredited consultants across all major security manufacturers
- Expert implementation of new investments
- Ongoing management and consultancy to ensure systems stay up to date and providing maximum value to the organisation

Engagements & Timescales

Whilst immediate improvements can be made where it is imperative to do so, strategic planning takes time. Liaison with board members and key stakeholders is important in ensuring that the right recommendations are given, and that all parties are clear about the outcomes of any activity.

It therefore makes sense for many customers to think of our engagement over half or full year rather than as a piecemeal activity, building trust and personal relationships which endure over time.

It is nonetheless important that your organisation sees value in the engagement from the beginning. In this instance a “starter pack” conducted over the first quarter can be helpful in demonstrating this value and can include deliverables which are then assessed at the end of the initial term.

Should your organisation decide to go ahead with such an engagement, vCISO activities can be deployed against our standard SLA (within two working weeks from receipt of purchase order).



About Lithify

Lithify is a specialist security reseller. We provide complex IT Security solutions to the largest companies in the UK and worldwide.

Our solutions are market-leading, delivered by experts with international reputations for excellence in their chosen fields.

We work with our clients on an ongoing basis to ensure that the investment made in IT security is utilised to the full and grows as the organisation evolves.

We work in the most challenging environments to make security work for the business it serves. Our reputation for troubleshooting and problem resolution is unparalleled.

Everything we do is lead by consultancy.

You should expect your account manager to be an experienced security professional who will become familiar with your business and will be an advisor to your company for years to come.

Our Approach

Every company has different needs and expectations. Every solution is specifically tailored to meet and exceed them. Our focus is always to listen to requirements, evaluate the network and to implement practical solutions which will help drive business forward.

We hold ourselves to rigorous standards of performance accepting only excellence as sufficient.

- we do not accept engagements unless we are confident that a successful outcome is possible and highly likely
- we would rather decline to participate in a task than to bow to pressure to cut corners or to sacrifice planning to budget or timescale
- careful planning means that we are confident in implementation, which is why we are trusted in high-risk environments such as ICS, DCS and SCADA, where delay and failure mean multi-million pound losses for the client
- our consultants are well known and respected thought leaders. Their experience comes from many years' practice in diverse environments, not simply from classroom learning or theoretical study

The solutions we devise and recommend are based on sound technical evaluation of your environment and working together to understand you, your team and the needs of your enterprise. There is no standard approach or a "cookie cutter" tick sheet.



Whilst we have favoured technologies, no vendor dominates our solution design, and we expect each solution to be bespoke. Our solutions are requirements based rather than vendor-lead because we will not shoe-horn inappropriate technology into your network to hit a 3rd-party metric (e.g. to support a sales campaign).

In any of the project types below, our engagement begins with a consultation, discussion of the short and long term aims of the organisation and a proposal on how best to move forward.



STRATEGY

When designing security strategy, we spend a considerable time working with the client to ensure that all areas of the business are considered. Strategy should provide a framework to support the aims of the business for at least the next 5 years, but also be flexible enough to cope with inevitable changes and additions as time goes by.



ARCHITECTURE

When architecting a network environment, we evaluate business need and recommend solutions based primarily on business requirement and future growth. Solutions must support the needs of the business, enable the creative freedom to allow the enterprise to innovate, and be flexible enough to grow as the enterprise develops.



REARCHITECTURE

When rearchitecting an existing network, we evaluate business need and map against existing tools and investments. Where assets can be reused, reoptimised or repurposed, they will be considered before any rip and replace strategy is recommended. Often, the addition of one or two key solutions can produce excellent results without the disruption caused by a wholesale replacement strategy.



PROJECT WORK

For a specific project, consultants consider the wider network, the business environment and the operational requirement ensuring that any recommended solution will be complimentary, and will enhance the array, rather than simply co-existing with other elements.



TROUBLESHOOTING

A network evaluation is the first step of any troubleshooting engagement. Once this is complete, a root and branch inspection of all solution elements will be undertaken. This methodical approach is key to our success in finding and resolving problems that others have failed to isolate.



OPTIMISATION

Solutions are often installed with base-level configurations, and not kept up to date. Our optimisation work helps you to use all available solution features and benefit from latest thinking to get the most from your investment.



Our Pedigree

Lithify engagements are undertaken with one simple objective: to provide technical excellence to our customers, based on the tenets of:

- straightforward advice
- pragmatic planning
- skilled architecture
- accurate implementation
- attention to detail

We have a clear track record of efficient projects, delivered dependably to time and budget. We excel in pinpointing a client's specific needs and selecting products which meet their needs precisely.

Our specialism lies in helping customers to develop networks which are robust, scalable and have defined security strategy.

We are valued for creating and overhauling complex networks in the most challenging environments.

Our ability to troubleshoot and resolve issues where others have failed sets us apart from traditional implementation partners.

Our clients include international corporations in the following sectors:

- energy
- communications
- banking
- insurance
- public sector
- defence

Reputation

We value our reputation and receive many of our engagements through recommendation. We've seen our customer base blossom in number through solid relationships; the wishes of individuals to bring Lithify with them as they move from engagement to engagement; and to pass on good reports to their wider peer groups.