Strategic Security Consulting

Customer: Cawthron Institute

Industry: Scientific Research

Services: CISOaaS / Security Testing & Assurance/ Business Continuity Planning

Challenges:

▷ Need for procedures / policies to provide security guidance and direction to the Institute

▷ Shortage of internal security expertise

▷ Limited insight to current security posture

Outcome:

▷ A set of ISO-aligned ISMS policies

▷ Access to local end-to-end cyber security resources with global experience

▷ Increase in visibility and understanding of their security posture

Cawthron Institute

Cawthron is Aotearoa New Zealand's largest independent science institute and has a century-long legacy of delivering world-class science and innovation that supports the sustainable development of primary industries in New Zealand and globally.

The challenge

Cawthron began a re-alignment programme in 2021 called "One-Cawthron". The aim of this was to align the company to one set of values and goals. This was one of the catalysts for a review of their Cyber Security posture.

An early requirement was to create and deliver a set of ISO-aligned Information Security Management System (ISMS) policies to assist in providing a framework for the re-aligned organisation.

Cawthron recognised they had limited time, in-house resources and expertise required to give cyber security the focus it needed. Cawthron identified the best way forward was to partner with an organisation who had the local presence, the specialist domain knowledge and reputation in cyber security.

The solution

In meeting this challenge, Cawthron engaged CyberCX in May 2021 with an immediate focus on producing a suite of policies through the CISO as-a-Service (CISOaaS).

The CyberCX CISOaaS provides:

▷ Access to independent input, insight and capability, without Cawthron having to retain a fulltime CISO

▷ Expertise across many security disciplines

▷ A trusted, impartial voice with an independent perspective

▷ Ability to supplement internal teams and provide additional capacity to assess and manage cyber risks

▷ Visibility and credibility - conduit between IT, Security, Leadership Team and Board

Since then, CyberCX has assisted Cawthron in:

▷ Improving its email security

▷ Implementing a vulnerability management system

▷ Developing a Risk register in a new digital portal allowing automated workflow tasks and providing visualisation of risks to Executive Leadership Team & Board

▷ Conducting a series of Penetration Tests

CyberCX is currently working with Cawthron on their Business Continuity Planning (BCP) project.

By partnering with CyberCX for its strategic security planning and implementation needs, Cawthron can provide assurance to regulators and customers alike, that business plans are in place that enable the supply of services to continue should a cyber security event occur e.g., a ransomware attack.

The outcome

Cawthron has been able to take advantage of the vast skillsets offered by CyberCX in security assurance testing, governance and risk advice, engineering and consulting services.

Cawthron has achieved an increase in visibility and gained a better understanding of their security maturity through Penetration Testing, Business Continuity Planning and analysis of alignment to NZISM. This has allowed Cawthron to focus their technology investments in areas that have the biggest impact - its core business which is the advancement of science to benefit Aotearoa New Zealand, with a focus on natural resources by delivering science that supports healthy ecosystems, a prosperous blue economy, thriving people and communities.

Cawthron continues to partner with CyberCX to gain support, receive regular independent input and insight through the on-going CISOaaS engagement and current BCP project.

"The ability to have a trusted advisor sit across the table and provide practical, pragmatic advice and pull together experts from across practices such as GRC and Edge-Penetration testing as needed has been invaluable."

Carl Snelgrove
Technology Support Manager

About CyberCX

CyberCX is a leading independent cyber security services company with offices across the UK, US and Australia, unifying the most trusted cyber security brands and the experts who built them. CyberCX delivers end-to-end cyber security services and the best cyber security talent with the most comprehensive range of cyber security services to business, enterprise and government.

Contact us to find out how CyberCX can help you achieve your cyber security goals.

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