

## TOPIC: Executive Support for Cyber Security Initiatives

Executive buy-in is crucial for success of any initiative within an organization. It is the alignment and agreement from the top-down and bottom-up within an organization. Security initiatives can originate from any level but should normally start at the managerial level. Getting executives to support a security initiative will ultimately determine the longevity of the program.

Depending on the nature of the initiative, the result of executive support can be a verbal confirmation, or a memo to staff showing support coupled with capital funding for the initiative. In relation to initiating Defensible Security (DefSec) within your organization, a verbal confirmation alone might not be sufficient; there should be tangible outcome of executive support (e.g. a meeting with executives followed by an email to relevant stakeholders/Directors expressing support).

The first control element of the DefSec framework is “Executive Support”. This control element is part of the Security Prerequisite category of the framework. Controls in the Security Prerequisites category ensure the importance of cybersecurity is recognized by executives in an organization. It also ensures that roles and responsibilities are identified, risks are documented and reviewed, and security and risk assessments are conducted.



The objective for the Executive Support control element, at a hygiene level, is to ensure recurring presentations are made to Executives, expressing the importance of cyber security. The presentation can also include a view of the threat landscape and cyber risks associated with business operations. Beyond compliance level, executive support should include capital funding for security related projects.

A major outcome of executive support is the successful completion of the DefSec assessment, which should include a review of the findings and execution of the recommendations.

### KEY EVENTS

- **Monthly Defensible Security Conference Call: July 2018**  
*This month’s conference call will cover introduction to DefSec and the first control element (Executive Support) of the DefSec framework.*
- **BC Security Day: Nov 7, 2018**  
*The Province organizes and hosts two “Security Day” events each year (Spring and Fall), free of charge. Representatives from the broader public sector, school districts, post secondary institutions, municipalities, and crown corporations are encouraged to attend. Visit the [Security Day](#) website for more information.*
- **20<sup>th</sup> Privacy and Security Conference: Feb 2019**  
*Held in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada this conference is a must attend. This three-day conference, is recognized as one of the top tier events in North America. Anyone working in the information privacy and security fields will benefit from the speakers, discussions, and networking at the conference. The conference draws an international audience of some 1,000 delegates with an interest in cutting edge policy, programs, law, research, and technologies aimed at the protection of privacy and security.*