Virtual Chief Information Security Officer (vCISO) is an executive-level service that addresses the existing and future business requirements of the application of cybersecurity through the three core tenants of **Leadership**, **Technical Guidance**, and **Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) Management**.

Achieving compliance under the various information security laws, regulations, and standards is imperative (and may be required) for an effective information security program. To truly be successful, business owners and executives must understand how to recognize, address, and manage information security risks via their information security program.

Why do I need vCISO?

A vCISO provides expert guidance and leadership on cybersecurity matters, including risk assessment, compliance, incident response, and strategy development, to ensure that the organization is protected against cyber threats and meets regulatory requirements.

For organizations who need, want, or are required to provide this level of oversight, yet can't support the financial responsibility of a full-time CISO, outsourcing to a virtual CISO (vCISO) is the option that brings together both strategic and operational leadership, to your organization security posture. Compliance is a large driver in today's technical world, and rightly a large focus of the efforts of the vCISO role.

A successful vCISO engagement requires knowledge of your organization's goals and present Cybersecurity capabilities. If your organization is looking for that direction but has not yet had an assessment of its current capabilities, Appalachia will begin by assessing your organization against a Cybersecurity framework that is relevant to your organization's regulatory or compliance needs. The following table identifies key cybersecurity services that will be included as needed:

Initial Security Assessment
Options: NIST CSF, CMMC, PCI, HIPAA, SOC2, HITRUST, NERC
Leadership
Regularly scheduled meetings to discuss technical details of ongoing projects and initiatives. These meetings serve to identify and address current challenges or roadblocks the technical delivery team is facing. This meeting can also serve as a conduit for your technical staff to have direct access to assist with high-level technical questions or concerns.   - Regularly scheduled meetings with Executive Leadership team to review IT service performance and discuss status of current cybersecurity initiatives and/or propose new initiatives through identified Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The vCISO role in these meetings is to add value by providing the leadership team guidance in strategic information security decisions.

Technical Guidance
Produce a security roadmap driven by the identified needs of the business. This roadmap for security posture will be updated and reviewed with the Executive Leadership team minimally on a quarterly basis.   - Review and/or create a program to develop device benchmarks and baselines. Develop a schedule to audit and validate these benchmarks and baselines.

Governance, Risk, and Compliance Management
Review and/or lead creation of a vulnerability management program to identify cybersecurity threats and prioritize remediation efforts.   - Review and/or lead creation of an employee training program to ensure that all employees are aware of business security programs, and their role in those programs.   - Review and/or lead creation of defined security policies to clearly state the business goals and expectations, specifically focusing on the compliance needs of the business.   - Review and/or lead creation of an incident response program and test the response plan at least annually.   - Review and/or lead creation of a risk management program to identify, quantify, and appropriately address known business risks. This will include creating and/or maintaining a risk register.   - Assist in completion of cyber insurance applications and/or renewal assessments.

Solving the information security dilemma through people starts with obtaining the right talent to execute the program. Appalachia's vCISO Services is the SOLUTION.
Contact us to get started today!