Security Staffing Survey Highlights

Updated Survey Provides Key Staffing and Budget Benchmarks for Information Security and Data Privacy Functions

2011 Staffing Survey Highlights

Although the numbers vary considerably by industry, information security staff now makes up roughly one out of every 200 employees. Average staffing levels jumped 880% since the previous survey, conducted in 1997. The rapid rise in staffing was driven primarily by compliance and market pressures. Among the highlights from the 2011 staffing survey:

1. Across all industries and regions, information security staff account for roughly 0.5% of all full-time employees (FTE), up almost 880% since 1997.
2. Information security staffing budgets are expected to rise 14% over the next year; with regulatory compliance is the largest budget influence.
3. 60% of respondent organizations outsource some of the information security function. On the average 18% of the staffing budget is outsourced, which is up from 7% in 1997.
4. Across multiple surveys, firms involved in military, federal government, and aerospace/defense had the largest information security staff as a percentage of total workers, while Retailing/Wholesaling had the lowest.
5. Of all the industries examined by the survey, Health Care experienced the largest percentage increase in staffing levels in recent years.
6. Manufacturing/Wholesaling experienced the next largest percentage increase in staffing levels in recent years.
7. 74% of respondents have an established function devoted to information security. However, an overwhelming majority (70%) still report up through the IT function.
8. 50% of all organizations have a designated Chief Security Officer (CSO) or similar senior manager responsible for information security.
9. Nearly 30% of respondents had a designated Chief Privacy Officer (CPO) or similar position.
10. Some 53% of the respondents indicated that outside contractors performed at least some of information security tasks.

About the Staffing Survey

The 2011 Information Security and Data Privacy Staffing Survey measured responses to a variety of questions concerning the staffing levels and characteristics of the information security function. The survey was designed to allow organizations to construct meaningful budget and staffing estimates based on both their industry and organization size.

The 2011 Information Security Staffing Survey is the third version of a series of similar surveys spanning a twenty-four-year period. The first survey was completed in 1989, and a follow-up survey was completed in 1997 in conjunction with the Computer Security Institute (CSI). This summary focuses primarily to the results of the 2011 survey, but occasionally makes reference to the older data to highlight trends. The survey summary is available for free to anyone who registers at www.informationshield.com.

The full results of the survey are available in the latest version of Information Security Roles and Responsibilities Made Easy, by Charles Cresson Wood and published by Information Shield.

About Information Shield

Information Shield provides information security policy and data privacy leading practices trusted by over 9000 customers worldwide, including Information Security Policies Made Easy. Headquartered in Houston, Texas, Information Shield's products allow organizations to effectively build written security programs that document compliance with international regulations.

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