MIND-SET VS. SKILL SET

A MONTHLY MIC NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4 · MAY 10 · VOLUME 3

MEMBER COMMUNITY SHOWCASE WITH

coinbase

- Learn about Coinbase Culture
- Apply for jobs
- FREE BTC ₿

May 21, 2021

WHAT NET-GEN CYBERSECURITY LEADERS NEED TO PRIORITIZE

What do you need to become a next-gen cybersecurity leader? The keyword here is a leader. What does that word mean to you?

Historically, cybersecurity leaders have been promoted based on skill set. They are good at something, whether it is a strong skill set in network security, threat intelligence, or incident response and those skill sets have been used to measure a cybersecurity leaders' effectiveness. The necessity for a skill set only cybersecurity leader has been changing for years, the more the Board of Directors get involved the less likely a highly technical skill set leader is desirable.

Next-gen cybersecurity leaders must always appreciate the technical cybersecurity skill sets and be prepared to hire the right talent to handle those job functions. However, a next-gen cybersecurity leader should also have the right mind set by being an influential voice in business strategy, technology decisions, privacy, and enterprise risk management. They need to have an expansive worldview, dedicated to growing talent, and have an insatiable hunger for learning. In addition, be highly self-aware. The very best leaders have discovered that becoming a person whom others will follow is discovered by looking within, you have to know yourself before you can lead others. This is the right mind set next-gen cybersecurity leaders need to focus on,

So as you grow your cybersecurity career prioritize mind set. A finance company has different objectives than a healthcare company, which has a different objective than an IoT company which has a different objective than a utility company. As next-gen cybersecurity leaders, you need to understand these differences and align your skill set and mind set accordingly.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

DEAR MIC COMMUNITY,

I recently shared in an interview that professionals, especially underrepresented professionals, need to build their stamina and resiliency. The definition of stamina is the ability to sustain prolonged physical or mental effort and the definition of resiliency is the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties. The concepts themselves are easy enough to understand but how do you determine when to push forward?

A couple of years ago I did this speech entitled "Pause…. Push, Pass, or Pivot: How to make decisions when you are facing career challenges." As someone who loves sports, I am prone to use sports analogies so forgive me, but I think the concept is easy enough to understand. You come across a situation in your career, and you have to make a decision. Whether its seeking promotion or being unsatisfied or unhappy with your current progress or organization, a time will come where you have to decide what your next move will be.

MARY N. CHANEY, ESQ., CISSP, CIPP/US
CHAIRWOMAN, CEO & PRESIDENT
MINORITIES IN CYBERSECURITY, INC.

Here's the sports part, I was a point guard, and it was my job to assess the defensive strategy and respond by running the offense and getting the ball in the optimal position to score. There is always this assessment going on in your brain of how best to score the ball. It's the same thing in your career, you have a goal in mind, and you are constantly assessing the best way to achieve your goal. And everything would be fine if there were no obstacles, i.e. a defense that is in your way. The defense comes in the form of challenges presented to you that could prevent you from achieving your goal, whether it is a person, place, or thing you are put in a position where you have to pause before continuing.

First off, I know that you can be a gunner and always "shoot your shot" but that all depends on how close you are to the basket, i.e. your goal. If you are in the backcourt, facing a full-court press, i.e. far from your goal, you have to pause and make decisions. Pushing means just putting your head down and forcing your way through the obstacle, passing means just that, give the ball to someone else and continue down the court, with less pressure, and pivoting means to hit the spin move and go around the challenge. Each of those tools, pushing, passing, and pivoting, will be used at different times in your career, your job is to determine at which point to use them. This month we are talking about putting our head down and pushing forward. We will tackle passing and pivoting in the next couple of newsletters.

When have I personally felt the need to push forward? To put it simply, when I can see past the obstacle. Which in my career meant seeing past people placed in my way in the form of naysayers, poor leaders, detractors, distractors, etc… Pushing forward in this instance meant I was pushing past my own insecurities towards my goal. People obstacles are placed in your way to teach you about yourself. They are meant to test your resolve, mental fortitude, and desire. Your job when you pause is to figure out what is this person's role in my personal self-discovery? What lessons do I need to learn to make sure I am prepared for this situation in the future. Because in order to reach greatness, you need to learn! The funny thing about my career is that when I have tried to pass or pivot around the people issues I eventually found myself back in the same place with another person that presented the same obstacle.

THE LESSON: GET TO KNOW YOURSELF THROUGH THE PEOPLE CHALLENGES YOU FACE AND PUSH THROUGH THEM!