

# What is the key organizational confidence in cybersecurity? It's all in the "what" of the measurement.

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## August Community Call

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AUGUST 20, 2021

Cybersecurity metrics are huge and have historically been how CISO's explained their overall cybersecurity risk posture. These numbers are then thrown in front of the Executive Team and the Board of Directors (BoD) to inspire confidence.

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**News Flash: All numbers are not created equal, and all metrics can be manipulated to tell the BoD what they want to hear!**

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For example, an oldie but goodie, the number of lost and stolen devices over a given period. If you encrypt all laptops or do not give your employees the ability to store sensitive information on their device, what does how many devices lost have to do with cybersecurity risk?

In addition, if you are measuring "detected intrusion attempts" but not the "mean time to contain" you are missing critical information regarding your team's ability to recover from intrusions they did not detect. Don't measure what you blocked, measure response times on the attempts that got through. In addition, if you are not measuring your cybersecurity tool's efficacy, you can be amazing at blocking 100% of all attempts on 10% of your network.

Yes, from a business perspective you must be able to measure your cybersecurity risk posture through effective and meaningful metrics! However, my advice to the BoD is to resist the urge of being impressed when shown a metric that shows the team blocked over 100,000 intrusion attempts a month but cannot relate that to how long it takes them to identify a successful intrusion. Because it only takes one successful attempt for a breach to occur.

# Message from the CEO

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## DEAR MIC COMMUNITY,

This month I want to discuss the importance of building your own self-confidence. I will surmise that many of us have had the displeasure of working with or for an insecure leader. But hopefully, we've all had the opposite experience, and have worked with or for a self-confident leader. I have found that teams led by confident leaders tend to outperform their counterparts. So that is our goal, build you into a self-confident leader!

Self-confidence is defined as a feeling of trust in one's abilities, qualities, and judgment. Some of the challenges minorities and women face in their careers can be traced directly back to a lack of self-confidence. When you are ignored, passed over, looked through it is so easy to look at yourself as lacking in some way, as if there is something wrong with you. Those feelings chip away at your self-confidence and cause you to, in the cybersecurity field, get more education, certifications, degrees, etc. get more of something, this intangible item, that will suddenly allow you to achieve everything you could ever want!



Mary N. Chaney, Esq., CISSP, CIPP/US  
Chairwoman, CEO & President  
Minorities in Cybersecurity, Inc.

I am here to tell you that you are chasing something externally that can only be found within yourself. The longest and most important relationship you will ever have is the one you have with yourself. There is no one else on the face of this earth that has more influence over your actions (or inactions), than yourself, we are the sum of our beliefs and decisions.

Self-confidence falters when we compare ourselves to others, when we surround ourselves with negative people, including our online “friends”, when we don’t take care of ourselves physically, or are constantly judging ourselves, the list can be endless.

I can 100% agree with you that sometimes the voices just won’t stop! I will share with you a couple of my tricks; one way is by distracting myself. In 2019, I studied for and obtained my CIPP (Certified Information Privacy Professional) certification. I did not pursue this certification because I felt I needed it for my career pursuits, I did it to distract the voices in my head that were focusing on the difficulties I was having growing my law practice. Once I obtained the certification, it provided a boost to my self-confidence and reinforced that I was indeed the best thing since sliced bread! :-)

Another sure-fire technique I use to build my self-confidence is by helping others, when I take the focus off myself, I can find clarity. We make such huge dramas in our own heads, building our own anxiety, about everything that is not going our way at any given time past or present. Personally, I have never been a fan of complaining without providing solutions so eventually I “get on my own nerves” and I trick my mind by forcing it to help others try to solve their problems. Eventually, the self-deprecating mood is lifted, and self-confidence is restored.

In your career, you will only go as far as your self-confidence takes you, take some time to find out those things that assist you with reinforcing your positive self-image and walking away from those things that cause self-doubt.