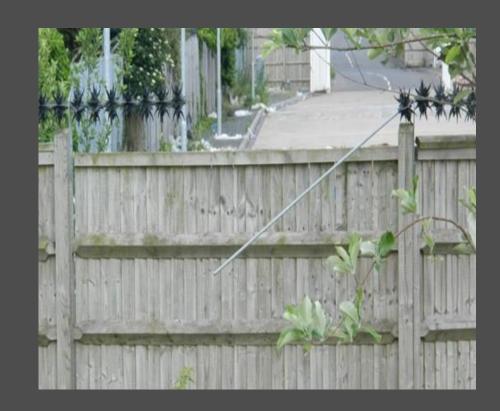# Failure

It's Almost Inevitable

The impact that Security failures can have are simple to understand, whether it's:

▪ The pure cost associated with the compromise of valuable assets.

▪ Disruption caused through the loss of critical infrastructure on which the delivery of key business services are dependent, or;

▪ Reputational damage and the resultant loss of business generated by being seen not to be secure.

Failure is not inevitable, but that inevitability is increased by the actions of an organisation.

The actions of organisations can be seen at all levels, but within security it is highlighted by:

- Limited Threat Appreciation exacerbated by analyst competency and that of their target audience.

- Procedural non-compliance aggravated by their practicality, being misunderstood, deliberately ignored or disregarded through custom and practice.

- Over dependence on 3rd party contractors, who operate with limited or no oversight.

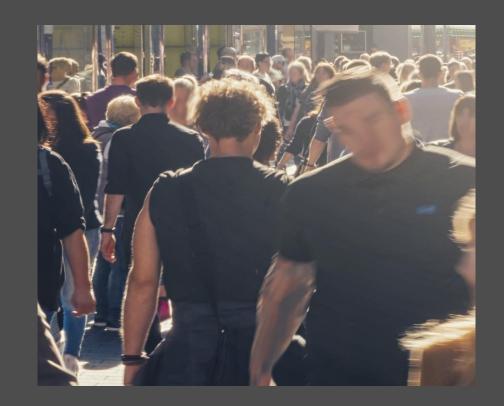- Security not being integrated and managed within an organisation's governance regime.

And it is this, when combined with culture, that can lead to failure

If the only measure taken of security's success is the frequency of incidents it is probably based on a false premise, as it is difficult to prove any corelation between the two.

Understanding the potential security has for the reduction in the number incidents is more aligned with:

- Exploiting a series of data points and through analysis providing predictive information not only on compliance but emerging vulnerabilities brought about by changes in the threat and operational landscape.

- Bringing security within an organisations governance regime to increase accountability, responsibility and visibility.

Aidan Anderson of RedLeaf Consultancy, has a depth of knowledge in Security Investigations that ranges from the compromise of government classified information and equipment, the loss of critical infrastructure, bank robberies, Tiger kidnappings to civil disorder.

It is this personal experience that Aidan brings to bear in establishing security frameworks, when undertaking security surveys and advising on security within a governance regime.

Security is never going to be fool proof, but by understanding how failures occur and acting on that, can reduce their impact and the inevitability of failure. For further information contact Aidan;

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