

## KAREN STEPHENS

Karen is CEO and co-founder of BCyber, an agile, innovative group who works with SMEs to protect and grow their business, by demystifying the technical and helping them to identify and address cybersecurity and governance risk gaps. Karen has recently graduated from both the TechReady Woman Accelerator graduate and CLP program with the Cyber Leadership Institute in 2021.



C O L U M N

# Let's make security the lingua franca of business in 2022

The last few years have seen cyber risk grow and change in ways we could never have imagined. So, let's make 2022 the year we embed cybersecurity into businesses big and small. By moving cybersecurity from the traditional "cyber risk as an IT problem" to "cyber risk as a competitive advantage" you can protect and differentiate your business from others in your market. It is not sufficient to tell management about the problem, you also need to provide actions they can easily implement. Are you ready to re-engage with your business colleagues? Here are three ideas to get you thinking.

### ALL DEPARTMENTS HAVE DIFFERENT CYBERSECURITY NEEDS

Each and every business unit needs to embed cybersecurity into its day-to-day processes and procedures. For example, what processes are in place to ensure the accounting and finance department does not get phished and end up making payments to a fictitious supplier, or to a fraudulent account purporting to belong to a real supplier? Are details of payments in excess of certain thresholds required to be confirmed through a second form of communication (eg phone)? This might not be the traditional remit of the cyber expert but it will add value and possibly save the business time, money and embarrassment. Each business unit will have its own challenges. You can help them identify and address these. Cybersecurity is more than technology.

### ASK FOR HELP

Security personnel are often pulled in many directions, and it is unlikely you will be able to have people embedded in each business unit. A cyber

ambassador is an option. This is a business unit staff member who is designated as the "internal subject matter expert". Having one is a great way to transfer knowledge and to "grow your own" cyber expertise in house. A cyber ambassador can help you keep all teams current and up to date with the greater cyber ecosystem. There is an added bonus: by making cybersecurity relevant you will help knowledge retention.

### CROWN JEWELS

You may be able to identify the business' "crown jewels" but what about those of individual business units? These are the assets that each business unit deems most critical to its mission. Their protection requires a whole-of-business team effort. When these assets have been identified you can work on ensuring the highest levels of protection are in place for them.

No doubt you have many ideas of your own. Remember, managing cyber risk is like origami: it looks easy, as if anyone can do it, but it can take years to master the intricacies. So be patient when taking your business on its cyber risk journey.

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