

You must **PLAN** your Information Security

By Marcia Mealy

Information security does not just happen. It must be planned, preferably before an incident occurs. However, knowing where to start can be a daunting task. Fortunately, planning your security can be broken down into 4 tasks that will start you on your way to a more secure system.

Project

Determine what needs to be protected. What are your most important assets? Is it, your company's trade secrets, reputation, or your customer's information.

This step is very important. You need to determine what needs to be protected in your company and rank them from the most important to the least important. The ranking will become important when you decide where to spend your security budget.

List

Write down all of your assets. This includes the ones mentioned above and physical items such as laptops, PCs, printers, copiers, documents, storage devices such as file cabinets, USBs, disks, CDs.

You cannot know what to protect if you do not know what you own. Create an inventory of all of your assets, so that you can determine if they need to be protected and how they should be protected.

Analyze

Determine what has to be protected and how much it will cost to protect it.

ROSI (Returns on security investment) = security investment is subtracted from the damage prevented

It is not an easy task to determine the return on security investment because it is all speculation. The Gerald Kovacich Model is an Informal model based on InfoSec metrics that can be used to determine the ROSI. ALE over-simplifies risk assessment because it cannot tell the difference between the risks of a low-frequency, high-impact threat and a high-frequency, low-impact threat. See the paper "ROI Comparison Paper" for a comparison of the ALE versus the Gerald Kovacich Model.

Notate

Notate your protection ideas in a document called a security plan. Use the security plan as a guide to make sure that your business is secure.

After you have documented your assets, ranked them and assigned a ROSI, it is time to create a plan to secure them. The plan should include who is protecting the assets, what is being protected, what is not being protected, a timeline for protecting the assets. It should include current protection plans and future protection plans.

Your Business Secure Security specialists can help you create your plan or we can review it after you create it. Contact us at 1-888-607-0943 for additional information or visit us online at www.ybsecure.com.