How Good Project Management Practices Ensure Application Security

Mark Schleisner, CISSP, PMP
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AGENDA

1. Why Application Security Implementations Need Project Management

2. How Does Project Management Enhance App Security Success? (Let me count the ways....)

3. Takeaways
1. WHY APPLICATION SECURITY IMPLEMENTATIONS NEED PROJECT MANAGEMENT
INTRODUCTION

TO ENSURE THAT SECURE APPLICATIONS ARE IMPLEMENTED:

1. IT and Security professionals need to CREATE an action plan; and

2. They need to IMPLEMENT the action plan.
ACTION PLANS CAN BE CREATED WITH SECURITY FAMEWORKS BY:

1. NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology); or
2. Alternatives like COBIT AND ISO 27001

BUT.... THESE FRAMEWORKS ARE NOT SPECIFIC ACTION PLANS, ONLY GUIDELINES.
INTRODUCTION (CONT'D)

NIST's own website says:

The Framework is guidance. It should be customized by different sectors and individual organizations to best suit their risks, situations, and needs.....The Framework should not be implemented as an un-customized checklist or a one-size-fits-all approach for all critical infrastructure organizations.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT PROVIDES THE CUSTOMIZATION NEEDED BY SECURITY TEAMS TO SUCCESSFULLY CARRY OUT PROJECTS
3. HOW DOES PROJECT MANAGEMENT ENHANCE APP SECURITY?

(Let me count the ways......)
A. DOCUMENTATION CLEARLY OUTLINES PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION & EXPECTATIONS

Project management best practices will:

1. Define project deliverables to be in the final project
2. Set constraints on project budgets and timelines
3. Define and match project tasks to project goals
4. Match project goals to business goals
B. EXECUTIVE BUY-IN

Project management best practices emphasize:

1. C-level sponsors of the app security project;
2. Executive approval of the project time frame, budget, and change management process;
3. Executive support in obtaining personnel and resources required for the length of the project.
C. ALIGNMENT WITH BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Successful application security projects:

1. Align closely with business operations and goals;

2. Align with applicable government and industry policies and regulations;

3. Address risk exposure and cyber-threats to the company's most valuable digital assets;

4. Ensure that all app deliverables are completed
D. OPTIMIZED RESOURCE ALLOCATION

Application security projects following best practices:

1. Ensure availability of resources throughout the project;
2. Optimize utilization of project resources;
3. Ensure that the right IT and security employees are available at the right time.
E. MITIGATION OF PROJECT ISSUES

Experienced project managers are adept at:

1. Preparing, from the beginning, for anticipated project problems with budgets, delays and deliverables;
2. Prioritizing and addressing unexpected project issues;
3. Escalating issues to executive management when justified.
F. CYBER RISK MANAGEMENT

This is where cybersecurity and project management intersect. Project and security managers both can:

1. Identify security vulnerabilities of applications before, during and after implementations;
2. Monitor risks of cyber-attacks on an application's network;
3. Plan application risk management.
"Lessons learned" is a core project management principle:

1. Promotes documentation of mistakes made during project implementation;

2. Furthers company progress with Six Sigma, Continuous Improvement Maturity Model (CIMM), etc.

3. Enhances application security of future implementations.
4. TAKEAWAYS
BLENDING PROJECT MANAGEMENT INTO APPLICATION SECURITY: HOW TO START

- Learn how good project management helps improve application cyber-resiliency
- Discuss with colleagues the benefits of blending project management principles with enhanced application security
- Seek opportunities for cooperation between cybersecurity and project management personnel
THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?