How to Survive in a "No-win" CyberWar

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Session Abstract

If your company has anything of significant value in electronic form your company's systems have been, are, or will be a target of cyberattacks. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "war" as "a situation in which people or groups compete with or fight against each other". Repetitive cyberattacks are, in effect, a war on your company. The belief that you can win the war (i.e., cease hostilities) is the first step in losing it. The techniques used to engage an opponent in cyber warfare at the state level can be learned from and, with some modifications, be applied to defending against cyberattacks. This presentation will address techniques and approaches that can help your company address cybersecurity threats through a process of continuous risk assessment and the principle of measured response.

Target Audience

This session is targeted at audit professionals who are interested in the rapidly evolving areas of cybersecurity, cybercrime and cyber warfare.

Speaker Bio

John Steensen is a Manager of Information Technology (IT) Audit at Albertsons Companies, one of the largest food and drug retailers in North America with sales over $58 billion. Mr. Steensen's primary focus at the Albertsons Companies is on managing technology-centric audits providing assurance and validation of the control environment and ensuring adherence to corporate and industry standards. Mr. Steensen's computer security background spans more than three decades and has directed the design, engineering and implementation of highly secure 4-9's multinational infrastructure (data centers and networks) spanning North America and Europe. Mr. Steensen has also worked as a computer forensics examiner and as a civilian contractor for the Drug Enforcement Agency's El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) as well as at the US Army White Sands Missile Range on secure projects. Mr. Steensen is a Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA®) and is Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control (CRISC™). He holds a BS degree in Computer Science from North Carolina State University and an MBA from the University of Phoenix with a specialization in Technology Management. He is recognized as an audit profession thought leader and speaks by invitation at national and local audit professional conferences and forums. Mr. Steensen gives back to the audit profession by volunteering as a member of the Board of Directors for ISACA SF Chapter and by working as a voting member of ASTM's E11 Committee on Statistics and Quality, which sets the world's standards for sampling and quality control.