The Challenge

Emerging information, security regulations, digital transformation initiatives, and rapidly changing technologies have created a significant gap in how organizations execute IAM programs. Effective strategies that help your organization modernize and deploy IAM initiatives while decreasing costs have become elusive. Since your security posture must support the business while addressing evolving threats, navigating the shifting landscape of information security has become more difficult. Successfully navigating this dichotomy, however, is more critical than ever to your business.

The Solution

Column Information Security’s Informed Approach™ assesses security capabilities in conjunction with an organization’s current and future business initiatives. This security-centric approach transitions information security from the traditional role as a fixed control point to a key enabler of your governance structure. Coupling good security hygiene for access provisioning, for example, with an automated inventory of all access assignments, allows organizations to focus on and correct access anomalies. By cross-referencing access data, we provide insights not evident using other means. We work with your team to understand your current ability to support various access and security strategies, to identify IAM program priorities, and to develop a comprehensive plan for current and future initiatives.

Key Benefits

- Broad competency and solution offerings
- Roadmap creation accelerates and ensures the efficacy of your project
- Continuous Improvement Model
- Exceptional, Experienced, Highly Skilled Team
- Global Presence

Our Informed Approach™

Column focuses on the linkages and dependencies between information security needs and business requirements. We work with your team to develop an organizational structure equipped to manage emerging concerns related to the shifting IAM landscape. Here are a few of the core activities and deliverables we bring to most engagements:

- Column Information Security will facilitate focused workshops to document business processes and challenges, organizational priorities, mandates, compliance requirements and timelines.
- We develop a tactical plan to support a strategic roadmap, which takes you from where you are to where you need to be.
- We deliver a resource plan which sets expectations for the involvement of current team members and identifies any staffing gaps that require attention.
- We help you define success for each initiative and ensure that success can be measured.
- We draft a “post-advisory support plan” to ensure continued organizational health, growth, and momentum after completion of the advisory effort.
Using the defined Strategic Roadmap, Column Information Security will build specific short-term milestones within the plan, and show how these foundational items promote success:

- Reasonable and achievable milestones form steps toward a more robust Identity and Access Management implementation, entirely in tune with your security posture.
- Milestones are intentionally kept small and discreet in order to realize a series of quick wins, thereby building credibility and momentum, and encouraging executive and peer buy-in.
- Resources and expectations for internal and external assistance are defined in detail.
- A timeline for each phase includes dependencies between workstreams and shows periods of rapid deployment followed by stabilization and preparation for the next phase.

The strategic roadmap is a 3-year IAM plan that will provide the current and future initiatives linked to the organization’s business goals, security concerns, and compliance requirements. Column’s real world experience and best practice methodology provides a thorough and compelling vision, with the details on how to get there. Components of the Strategic Roadmap include:

- A realistic vision and executable strategy to mature your organization over time, establish an effective IAM Program, define new processes and absorb new technologies at velocity.
- An organizational model and related staffing plan designed to clearly communicate objectives and activities, embarking on your IAM journey with clarity and executive sponsorship.
- Roles and responsibilities for all managing members and participants in the IAM Programs and Information Security groups.
- Recommendations to enhance or deploy IAM technologies such as SSO and federation, multifactor authentication, password management, lifecycle management, identity governance, data access governance, privileged access management, and vulnerability management.

A Business Case will be created to outline and address the business benefits, problem mitigation, potential operational cost savings, risk reductions, and impact cost. This document is often used to “sell” the project to executive management.

Column helps drive standardization of roles, role models, and role management techniques to ease access provisioning and compliance burdens while reducing access anomalies and risk.
Goals of Strategic IAM and Security Initiative

Column Information Security Advisory Services place great value on transparency, collaboration, and support across a variety of users, all while upholding a high level of security and safety of information.

The following are IAM goals we believe can help ensure this Initiative:

- Identify key high-level IAM business requirements
- Streamline Role Management
- Password Policy and Management
- Define the IAM Strategy and appropriate Governance Structure
- Define a long-term IAM governance structure

Additional Advisory Services

Security Health Checks
Ensure that your organization is operating with security in mind through security health checks designed to assess your organization’s current security measures.

Employee Security Education and Awareness
Educate your employees on proper security procedures to prevent cyber breaches or other security threats. Help team members understand the importance of their roles and their participation in information security and identity governance.

IAM Analysis
Implement a full, comprehensive IAM practice to support a variety of users while maintaining the security and integrity of assets and information within the organization.

Chief Information Security Officer Advising and Consultation
Our Information Security experts and consultants can help advise CISOs maneuver and manage the complexities of Information Security. We are plugged in to emerging security technologies and we separate fads from game changers on a daily basis.

Procedure Assessments and Improvements
Analyze current security procedures and work on improvements to current systems. Focus on operational efficiency and consistency of support processes across disparate systems and applications.

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