



While a CISO is a vital tool for keeping your company safe from cyber threats, it's not always an option for small and medium-sized businesses. That's why MERIT created our virtual Chief Information Security Officer program, to help your organization build and maintain a robust cybersecurity program without the need for a full-time, in-house CISO.

The vCISO becomes part of your leadership team, providing recommendations, IT compliance oversight, cyber security project management, cyber insurance attestation, and ongoing status reporting.

## HERE'S WHAT THE MERIT vCISO CAN DO FOR YOU:

- 1 > **Cybersecurity Strategy Development:** We'll develop a comprehensive, adaptive cybersecurity strategy that's aligned with your business objectives by assessing current security posture, identifying new and existing risks, and prioritizing security initiatives.
- 2 > **Risk Management:** We implement risk management frameworks and ensure that appropriate controls are in place to keep your business safe.
- 3 > **Policy and Procedure Development:** We'll help your leadership team implement cybersecurity policies, procedures, and standards to ensure that the organization is compliant with relevant regulations and best practices.
- 4 > **Incident Response Planning:** We'll develop and maintain incident response plans to prepare the organization to respond to potential security incidences.
- 5 > **Security Awareness Training:** We oversee the client's security awareness training programs for employees to ensure they understand their role in maintaining the organization's security.
- 6 > **Compliance Checks:** We help respond to audits and help the organization navigate compliance requirements, ensuring that the organization complies with relevant cybersecurity regulations and standards.
- 7 > **Vendor Assessments:** We'll evaluate third-party vendors and service providers to ensure they meet the organization's security requirements, which includes assessing vendor risks and ensuring contracts include appropriate security clauses.
- 8 > **Security Architecture and Design:** We'll provide input into the design and architecture of your organization's IT systems to ensure security is integrated from the outset, including updating your technology to meet current industry standards.
- 9 > **Board Reporting:** The MERIT vCISO provides updates to the executive team or board of directors, ensuring they are informed about the organization's cybersecurity posture, risks, and any significant incidents.
- 10 > **Interim CISO Services:** If necessary, the MERIT vCISO can even act as an interim CISO, filling the role temporarily while the organization searches for a full-time candidate.