Resilience First

Briefing & Workshop – 12 March 2019 – Summary

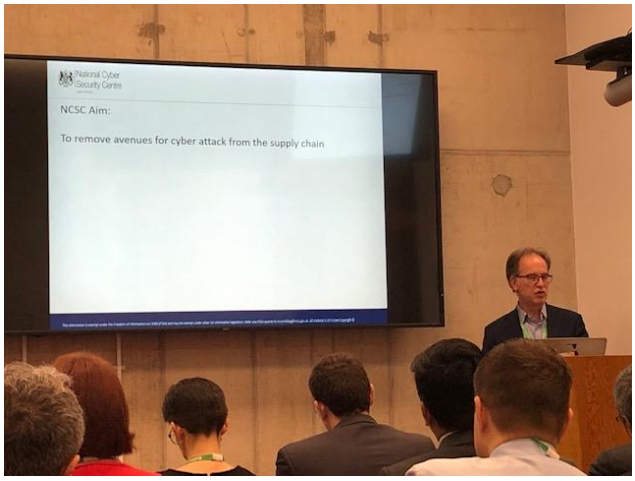
Measuring cyber resilience across subsidiaries and suppliers

Introduction

This briefing and exercise, kindly hosted by Facebook in London, was designed to help attendees think about resilience across their chain of suppliers and partners, and provide practical advice for managing any risks. Around 50 people attended.

The main area of focus was on resilience to cyber threats such as handling sensitive information, viruses and hacking.

Discussion



The first presentation was from Peter, Deputy Director Lead on Supply Chain at the National Cyber Security Centre.

He outlined the NCSC's aim of removing avenues for cyber attack from the supply chain, highlighting that two major attacks the NCSC had dealt with have been introduced via Managed Service Providers and Communications suppliers to their extensive customer bases.

According to a survey conducted in late 2018 by the Ponemon Institute, 56% of organisations had a breach caused by a supplier. Only 18% of organisations realised their suppliers were sharing sensitive information.

Key steps that organisations can take include:

- Identifying who their suppliers are.
- Rating them for risk: who are the really critical ones? This recognises that it is impossible to understand fully every supplier, especially if you have hundreds.
- Insert Cyber Security clauses in contracts.
- Asking for Cyber Essentials.
- Educating users.

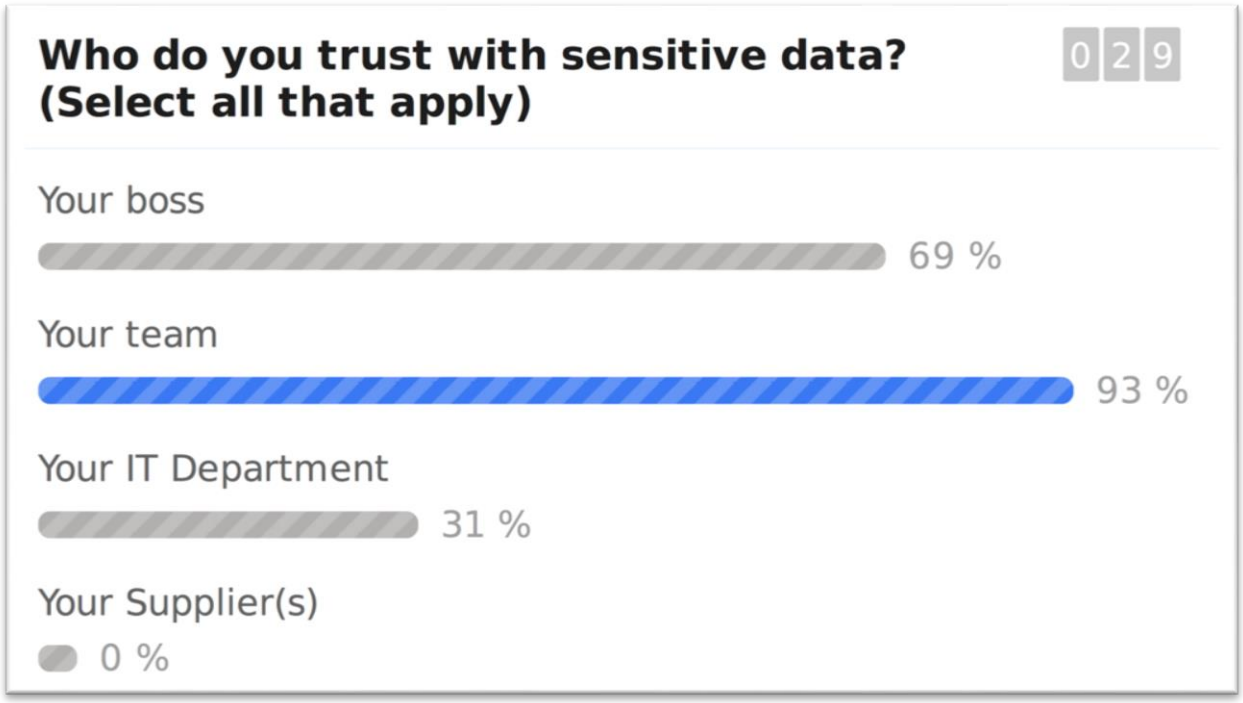
Under GDPR there is a duty to notify the Information Commissioner of any breach within 72 hours. Peter also advised notifying the NCSC as well: while not a regulator, it may be able to assist or the information provided may be valuable to the wider business community.

Resources to help with understanding and managing risk and improving resilience are available on the NCSC website, including a guide to the Cyber Essentials scheme, and a useful infographic is attached to this report.

Exercise

Kevin Duffey of Cyber Rescue conducted an exercise with the attendees to help them think about cyber risks and vulnerabilities.

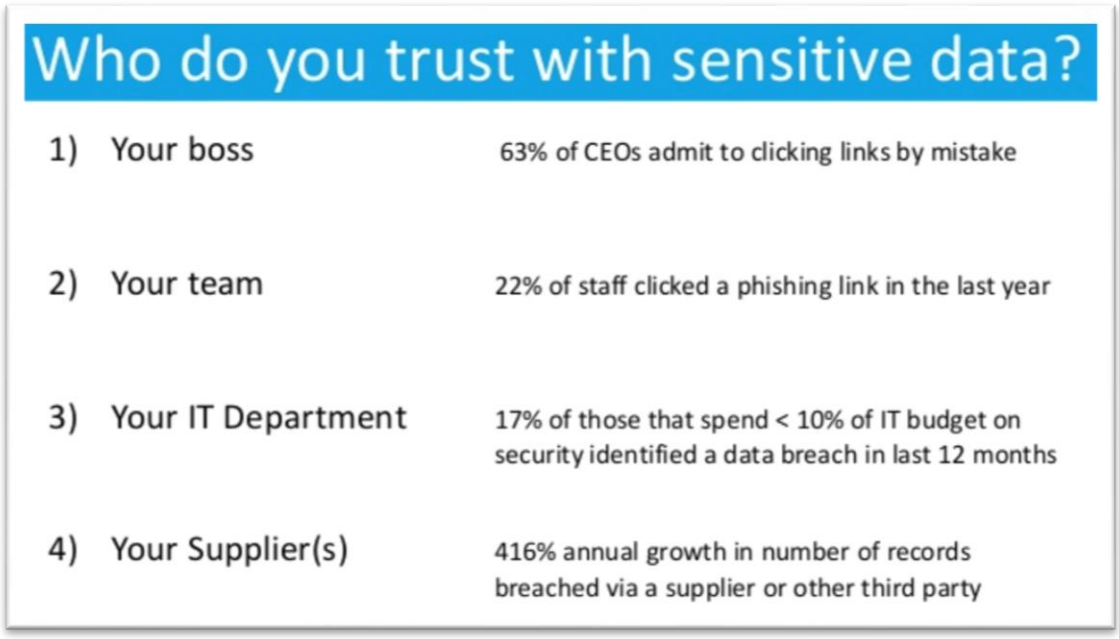
Using the Slido polling system, attendees were asked who they trust with sensitive information. The results were:



The example of an organisation's HR department was used to demonstrate the sheer breadth of contacts:

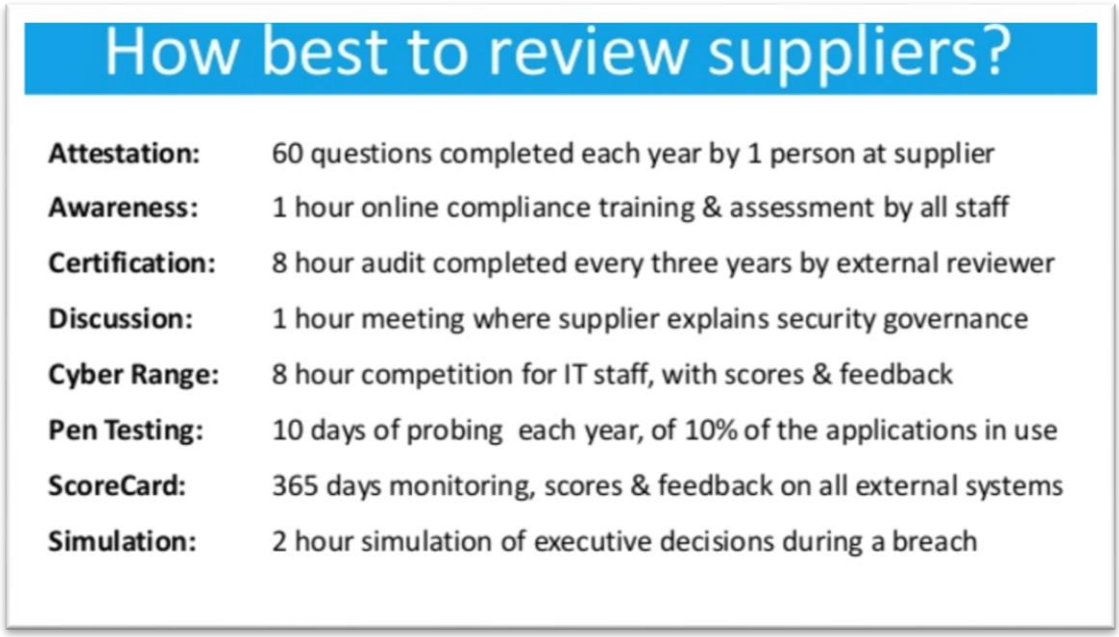
- Recruitment, vetting and payroll agencies;
- Pension providers;
- Private health care providers;
- Other benefits providers;
- Training providers;
- Coaches and mentors;
- Staff survey providers;
- Unions;
- Legal experts.

Insight from Cyber Rescue research showed some of the issues associated with sharing information.



Kevin also highlighted that for organisations that spend more than 10% of their IT budget on security, the likelihood of detecting a break doubled.

The second discussion point looked at what attendees thought were the most effective ways to engage suppliers and review their resilience to cyber threats. Options included:



Participants were encouraged to think about their ‘attack surface’: the size of their IT network, added to that of their suppliers and other partners.

He also demonstrated a scorecard system that can be used to drill down into an organisation to understand where its risk areas lie.

Participants noted that while due diligence on a company is important, just as important is reputation and the need to have a relationship with suppliers and partners to build trust and encourage openness and honesty.

Kevin’s slides can be viewed here.

The event was closed by former UK police lead for economic crime and cyber protection, Chris Greany. He reminded the audience that at its heart, any cyber risk is still a human problem, saying: “Cyber is on the inside, not the outside. Everyone worries about letting cyber risks in. But the problem is almost certainly in your organisation already.”

You can also see a timeline of the event on the Resilience First Twitter feed @ResilienceFirst.