



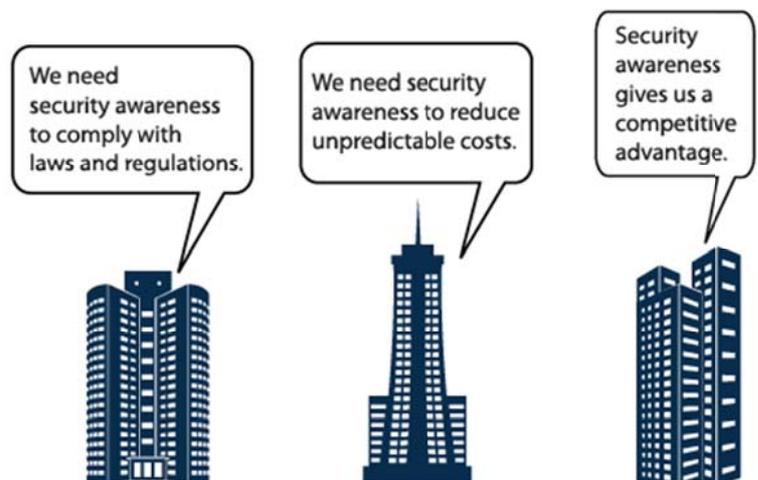
# The Importance of Security Awareness Training

Security can't be guaranteed. As Clint Eastwood once said, "If you want a guarantee, buy a toaster."

The British have a marvellous word - "whinging" - which refers to the practice of complaining without doing anything about it. As in, "Everybody whinges about the weather, but nobody does anything about it." We may not all call it by this name, but security practitioners in every country love to "whinge," because it's so much easier to whinge about a problem than try to fix it.

Over the last few years, the volume of industrial security whinging has been deafening, thanks in part to the legions of newbies whose expectations don't square with reality. Even after the high-tech meltdown, the vendor space is filled with goofy products developed by technologists who don't know the difference between need and demand. The industrial security professionals keep cribbing that their management is indifferent to their needs whereas the vulnerabilities keep mounting! What they do not appreciate that it takes only marginal efforts in providing awareness training to their employees.

One of the best ways to make sure company employees will not make costly errors in regard to security is to institute company-wide security-awareness training initiatives that include, but are not limited to classroom style training sessions, security awareness website(s), helpful hints via e-mail, or even posters. These methods can help ensure employees have a solid understanding of company security policy, procedure and best practices.



One of the greatest threats to security could actually come from within your company or organization. Insiders have been noted to be some of the most dangerous since these people are already quite familiar with the infrastructure. It is not always disgruntled workers and corporate spies who are a threat. Often, it is the non-malicious, uninformed employee!

Educating employees about security is a vital part of your defence against criminals and unethical competitors. Yet security training and education is often neglected, sometimes at great cost. A breach of your company's security can be hugely expensive, dwarfing the cost of the training that could have prevented it. To learn the role of education in security and discover ways to implementing training without breaking the budget remains one big challenge to the management and security in-charges!

**Security awareness can be the most cost-effective security measure!**

Ira Winkler