CYBERSECURITY CURRENT PERSPECTIVES FOR BOARDS

ARAVIND SWAMINATHAN, PARTNER



January 16, 2024

LEGAL LANDSCAPE



U.S. "Cybersecurity Law"



Laws imposing civil or criminal liability for hacking



Laws implementation of **security** measures



Laws requiring **notification** of security breaches



Contractual duties re: security and/or breach notification



Regulator enforcement **consent decrees**, and related requirements



Regulator and industry standards, guidelines, and frameworks

Industry Standards

- Key Points:
 - Not legal requirements
 - Can be required by contract
 - Some can be a safe harbor



U.S. State Breach Notification Laws



50 state breach notification and data security laws

Information Covered

- Name combined with SSN, driver's license or state ID, financial account numbers, etc.
- Some states include tax information, medical and health insurance information, or biometric information
- Usernames with passwords

Exemptions

- GLBA, HIPAA, other regulatory regime, written policies **Exceptions**
- No Risk of Harm to the Individual
- Good Faith Acquisition by and Employee/Agent
- Non-Electronic Data (only hard copies)
- Encryption (without the key)
- Publicly available

"Data Breach"

 Triggered by unauthorized acquisition / access / loss / use of PI that compromises the confidentiality, integrity or security of data in electronic or hard copy.

Consequences

- Notification to:
 - Individuals
 - States Attorneys General
- **Timing:** varies, as short as 10 days from determination of breach

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act



Breach Notification Rule

Protected Health Information ("PHI")

Information that is (1) individually identifiable, (2) created or received by a Covered Entity ("CE") or Business Associate ("BA") and (3) relates to the:

- Physical or mental health or condition of an individual,
- Provision of health care to an individual, or
- Payment for health care provided to an individual

Exceptions

- Financial Transaction
- Low probability PHI compromised
- Unintentional workforce acquisition, access, or use (good faith and within scope of authority)
- Inadvertent disclosure within CE or BA
- Good faith belief no retention of information

"Breach of Security"

• Unauthorized acquisition, access, use, or disclosure of PHI that compromises the privacy or security of PHI.

Consequences

- Notice to OCR: If 500 or more individuals are affected, CEs must notify OCR without unreasonable delay and in no case later than 60 calendar days after discovery of breach. CEs can notify HHS-OCR annually if fewer than 500 individuals are affected.
- Notice to individuals and the media: Individuals must be notified without unreasonable delay and in no case later than 60 calendar days after discovery of breach. If more than 500 individuals in a single state or jurisdiction, the media must be notified.
- **OCR Investigation:** OCR must investigate breaches with 500 or more affected individuals.

Legal Framework: Obligation to Notify



- Generally trigger on unauthorized "access" or "acquisition" of personal information, plus exceptions
- 50+ separate U.S. state laws + territories
- FTC ACT Notice
- Rest-of-world

- Differs by customer re: definitions and duties
- Contractual duties
 unaffected by statute

- Forensics are often inconclusive, which leads to a multi-factor decision tree
- Voluntary notice scenarios based on facts, risk mitigation and ethical concerns

What is your North Star?

Legal Framework

- Obligation to conduct a "reasonable" investigation
 - State Breach Notification Statutes
 - FTC Act
 - Industry-specific Requirements
 - GLBA Guidance
 - GDPR (and, increasingly, other international regimes, e.g., China, Turkey, Brazil)
 - Contracts
- What is a reasonable investigation?
 - Balance of factors including volume and sensitivity of data, type of attack, burden of investigation, and industry custom
 - Practical concerns

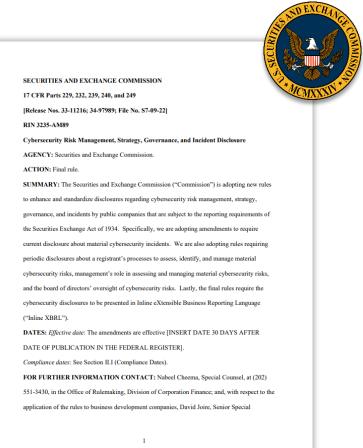
Third-Party Risk Management

- Conduct diligence on security
- Consider contractual provisions
 - Statutory requirements (reasonable security)
 - Breach notification
 - Liability provisions
- Ongoing review and assessment to verify compliance



SEC Finalizes Cybersecurity Disclosure Rules

- Effective December 18, 2023, companies must disclose material cybersecurity incidents, including certain third-party incidents, on a Form 8-K.
- The materiality determination must be made "without unreasonable delay," a slight softening from the proposal.
 - Disclosure must describe the incident's nature, scope, timing and effect, less detail than the proposal.
- There is a limited exception for delay if requested by the United States Attorney General.
- Governance disclosures focus on board and management processes for cyber risk, and apply starting with 10-K filings for fiscal years ending on or after December 15, 2023.
- Companies do not have to disclose director cyber expertise, or how the board considers cybersecurity in company strategy.



SEC Rulemaking: Themes and Trends

"A registrant's materiality determination regarding a cybersecurity incident must be made without unreasonable delay after discovery of the incident."



"[I]dentify any board committee or subcommittee responsible for the oversight of risks from cybersecurity threats and describe the processes by which the board or such committee is informed about such risk"

- Increased SEC focus on process disclosure
- SEC increasingly seeking disclosure of specific uniform data, regardless of whether material to the issuer
- SEC seeking detailed board governance disclosures – personnel, processes, and views
- SEC seeking detailed disclosure about management-level governance – personnel, processes, and views
- SEC focused on risk management programs and related disclosures

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR BOARDS



Trending: Focus on Executives and Boards RISK MANAGEMENT

Business

Yahoo Shareholder Sues Company For **Delaying Data Breach Disclosures**

A Yahoo shareholder has sued the company's directors in Santa Clara County Superior Court for allegedly violating their fiduciary duties.

By Norcal Patch (Patch Staff) - March 10, 2017 11:53 am ET



News,	cases,	companies,	firms
,	,	oonipoinioo,	

7 Target Board Members In ISS' **Over Data Breach**

FTC seeks to hold Drizly CEO

By Linda Chiem

TECH



Judy Greenwald 12/21/2016 2:42:00 PM

SHARE

A Wendy's Co. shareholder has filed a

<

05-07-2014 | 07:32 AM Author: Kevin M. LaCroix



Shareholder sues Wendy's over data breach

accountable for alleged security failures, even if he moves to anoth

company

PUBLISHED MON, OCT 24 2022-3:53 PM EDT



Lawsuit

Wyndham Worldwide Board Hit with Cyber Breach-Related Derivative



Cy

Typical Post-Breach Claims Against Officers & Directors

Failure to:

- Implement and monitor effective cybersecurity program;
- Protect company assets and business by recklessly disregarding cybersecurity risks and ignoring "red flags";
- Implement and maintain internal controls to protect customer or employee personal and financial information;
- ➤ Take reasonable steps to timely notify individuals that company's information security system was breached; and/or
- Implement controls or oversee cybersecurity program, resulting in a waste of corporate assets.

Caused or allowed company to:

- ➢ Disseminate materially false and misleading statements to shareholders regarding incident; and/or
- XMake false or misleading cyber-risk disclosures in public filings

Key Questions for Execs / Board Members To Consider

- Top Cybersecurity Risks: What are our top cybersecurity risks, and what is the residual risk the business is accepting?
- Risk Ownership: Who in management has primary ownership of cybersecurity risk?
- Security Framework: Do we use a security framework, such as National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework, and how has our maturity evolved over time?
- Considering External and Internal Threats: Are both external and internal threats considered when planning cybersecurity program activities?
- Periodic Assessments: Do we conduct periodic technical and risk assessments? Do we base remediation and security improvements on identified risks?
- Auditing: Do we audit and test our security controls, practices and procedures, to ensure we are following them, and they are working effectively?
- Vulnerability Management Program: Do we have a vulnerability management program and standardized SLAs for addressing / mitigating / remediating vulnerabilities?
- Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery: Do we have a BC/DR strategy? Is it integrated into our incident response process? Do we test it regularly?



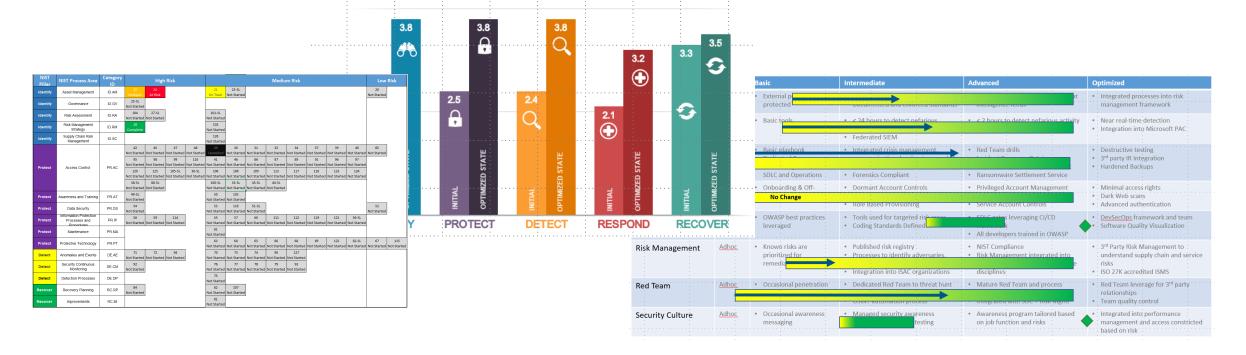
Key Questions for Execs / Board Members To Consider

- Vendors: Do we require vendors to have a minimum level of security, and test them regularly?
- Threat Intelligence: Do we have a structured and comprehensive approach to obtaining threat intelligence, including participating in threat intelligence sharing forums to develop understanding of threat landscape (e.g., FS-ISAC)?
- Employees: Are employees trained and made aware of their role related to cybersecurity? Does every employee receive some basic cybersecurity awareness training? Do we offer remedial training for those who need it?
- Inventory of Data and Assets: Do we have an inventory of data and assets that might be subject to compromise (e.g., data map or network map)?
- Encryption: Do we use encryption to protect data in transit and at rest?
- Incident Response Plan: In the event of a cyberattack, has management developed a robust incident response plan? Do we have outside resources that may be necessary if there's an attack?
- Cyber Insurance: Do we have cyber liability or other insurance to cover costs of forensic analysis, legal services, public relations, credit monitoring, litigation defense, etc.?



Regular Board Briefings by Company Security Team

- Establishing baseline of the current cybersecurity program
- Cybersecurity roadmap development and progress to goals



• Key (15) questions for Board members

QUESTIONS?



