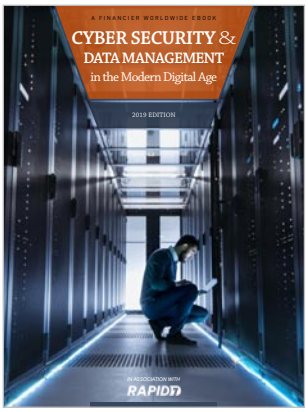

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FOREWORD

Foreword by Todd Lefkowitz who is vice president of global services at Rapid7

FOREWORD

THE UBIQUITY OF DATA COMPROMISE continues to accelerate at an unprecedented pace. Headline after headline related to data breaches and nation-state attacks makes it hard for boardrooms to avoid the discussion. This, coupled with industries and geographies that now mandate more stringent security controls or breach disclosure, brings security relevance to new levels. For security practitioners, this is a welcomed evolution in both process and technology.

Emerging standards and guidelines like the European Union's General Data Privacy Regulation (GDPR), New York's Department of Financial Services Cyber Regulation (NYCRR), Australian Privacy Amendment (Notifiable Data Breaches) and California's Consumer Privacy Act are examples of regulation that are placing new security requirements on institutions that can have real financial repercussions. In the case of failing to disclose a data breach under the GDPR guidelines, the resulting fine can be upwards of 4 percent of revenues, which represents

a material impact.

Boards are interested in understanding how the effects of regulation impact business planning while solving for risk. There is a basic and foundational desire to ensure companies are doing what they can to protect not only their intellectual property and availability but also the privacy of their customers. This includes an understanding of the maturity of security programmes in place, and how this extends to vendors and partners, along with potential merger or acquisition targets. For others, it is cyber resilience for new internet-connected products to market.

The rise of cryptocurrency and ransomware-style attacks, with their devastating impact, have caused boards to question the integrity and maturity of security programmes currently in place. Checking a regulatory box is different than pursuing security best practice. Modern infrastructure is only getting more complex with the explosion of cloud computing.

In modern computing environments, any strategy now needs to include the cloud – whether private, public or hybrid. As more companies embrace their journey to the cloud or leverage software or infrastructure as a service, there is growing

confusion about what security processes exist and how they are implemented. While cloud providers embrace secure computing environments, the dependency lies with the operator to ensure configurations are established and managed correctly.

Cloud or not, is the business prepared and is there an appropriate business continuity or disaster recovery plan in place? While "not if, but when" has become cliché, it is still very much germane to how we think about security in the context of business. The board may not need, or care, to know the fine detail, but it should know a proven, actionable plan exists. The internet affords incredible business innovation, but we must be prepared to advance securely – and our boards' willingness to get involved is a major step forward.

■ *Todd Lefkowitz is vice president of global services at Rapid7.*

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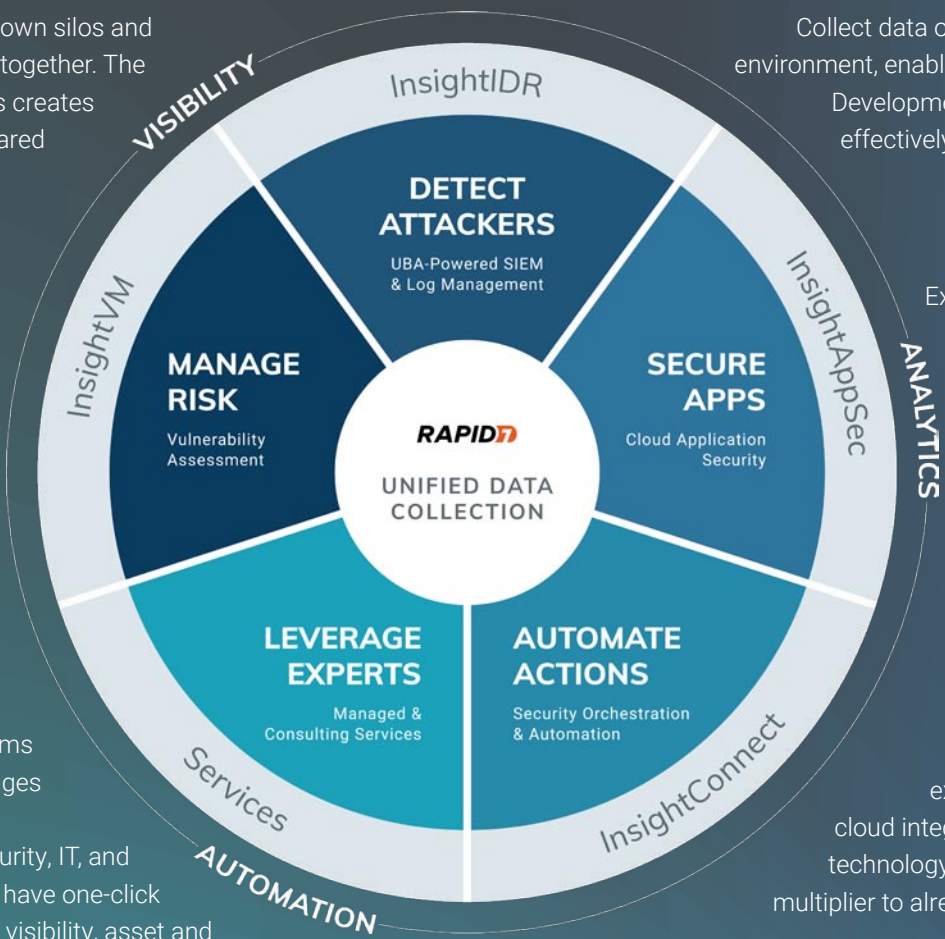

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