

Tabletop Exercises



Turn your vulnerabilities into capabilities

In a tabletop exercise, you can test your team's response to unique incidents your organization might face. Whether you need to refine your processes for isolating systems, your executive team wants to practice their legal and PR response to incidents, or your technical team has notions to test new industrial technologies, Cisco Talos Incident Response (Talos IR) builds custom Tabletop Exercises that are specific to you and your organization.

The Talos IR team is vendor and tool agnostic, which means that we truly can test anything within your environment. We can also build Tabletop Exercises that align with larger crisis management, disaster recovery, or business continuity processes across your organization.

How it works

Before the exercise, Talos IR will hold workshops with your team to ensure your organization gets the most out of the experience. You can bring in any third parties, outsourced teams, partners and government agencies that you would like to work with during the scenario.

Each Tabletop Exercise is 2-3 hours long and can be delivered in-person, remote or hybrid. Whether the exercise focuses on a ransomware incident, an insider threat or an executive response, Talos IR will build out the attack path for your organization to respond to. We will storyboard everything from the initial alert through the various twists and turns that you may encounter.

At the end of the exercise, we will present a report that details your organization's successes and any opportunities for improvement.

Benefits

- Gain deeper insight into the effectiveness of your incident response plan by examining your supporting procedures and key participants in your IR workflows
- Validate and test your communication processes, ensuring information is being shared appropriately so your team can make timely decisions
- Identify potential gaps in your existing solutions and gain expert recommendations on how to remediate
- Utilize insights to understand and test connections to any broader crisis management or business continuity plans

Case study

Cyber attack on critical infrastructure

Challenges

- Our client wanted to ensure all business units, partners and government agencies were aware of their role and the client's expectations in case of a cyber attack that warranted activation of the Incident Command System (ICS).
- The client wanted to validate their capabilities to detect and respond to a cyber attack targeting their ICS/SCADA environment.

Solution

- Talos IR coordinated with the client and eight local, state and federal agencies to develop a scenario that would identify:
 - *How (and who) would report the attack*
 - *What regulatory requirements were applicable*
 - *How the client would respond to such an attack*
 - *What each party could offer in terms of support*
 - *The expectations and goals of each party*
- Talos IR delivered the Tabletop Exercise on-site. The exercise not only exceeded all the stated objectives but also fostered increased trust between all parties involved.

Outcomes

- Identified and practiced broader engagement outside of the security team
- Customized and facilitated educational workshops for team members and key executives
- Identified vulnerabilities and gaps and provided recommendations for remediation

Get prepared

A tabletop exercise is the next step up from an incident response plan. With a customized scenario developed by Cisco Talos Incident Response (Talos IR) experts, you can rigorously test your incident response plan to assess how well your plan works and identify opportunities for improvement.

Exercise types

We provide a variety of custom Tabletop Exercises to address your specific needs:

Traditional: Best for testing new incident response plans, or teams new to the existing incident response plan. It can focus on technical or non-technical aspects, including executive, business unit or IT needs.

Gamification: Similar to the traditional version, but introduces elements of chance and unexpected complications, since incident response doesn't always go to plan.

Security expertise at your fingertips

When you partner with Cisco Talos IR, you ensure your organization has direct access to unique and actionable threat intelligence, world-class emergency response capabilities, and unmatched expertise to help you be prepared for what's now and what's next.

Next Steps

For more information on Cisco Talos Incident Response Retainer Service:

[Cisco Talos Incident Response](#) | [Cisco Talos Intelligence](#)

[Cisco Talos Incident Response Retainer Service Description](#)

Contact us:

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