Kia ora koutou

You are probably already aware that the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) is working to improve cyber security maturity across the tertiary sector with its Cyber Security for the Tertiary Sector (CSTS) project. As part of that it's offering cyber security maturity assessments for interested providers so they can get a clear sense of their level of security, and how to become safer.

The assessments are free to you, and conducted independently by KPMG. Normally such an asssessment would cost around $5,000, so it's a a very attractive offer. TEC will not see the results, and the resulting reports will be provided to particpants by KPMG, so there is no compliance component involved. And the process is likely to occupy only a few hours over a short period.

For larger Tertiary Education Organisations (Wānanga, Te Pūkenga, Universities and Larger PTEs) these will be high-level Cyber Maturity Assessments.

The assessments will evaluate the maturity of the key managerial and operational security controls protecting the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the providers' systems and data against the NIST Cybersecurity Framework, through:

- Providing each provider with an online questionnaire of 60 questions based on the NIST Cybersecurity Framework. This will be delivered through an assessment tool called Alyne.
- Having each provider provide a series of "evidence" outlined in a summary provided to them (being a selection of documents that support the answers to the questionnaire).
- Using the answers from the questionnaire, along with the review of relevant documentation provided (e.g., policies, standards, procedures, sample reports) to arrive at a maturity score for each domain within the NIST Cybersecurity Framework.

The maturity assessment will be of a high-level nature with scores presented on a typical 1 to 5 scoring basis. Where required, to assist the providers understand how to answer the Cyber Maturity Assessment questions, an online workshop will be run that all providers will be invited to.

The output of the Cyber Maturity Assessment for each provider will be a brief report for the provider that details:

- The maturity scores achieved for each of the 23 categories and five domains, and an overall maturity score.
- Spider diagram visual showing maturity scores for the 23 categories
- For each of the five domains, a summary of what is done well, and a summary of what actions would be necessary to achieve a maturity score of 3 (where the maturity is less than 3, which is expected for most providers for most domains).
- A priority assigned to each of the actions that would be necessary to achieve a 3 (based on the level of risk presented).

As mentioned above, each provider's report will only be supplied to the provider. No information will be provided to TEC.

At a time when cyber attacks are on the rise, and becoming more sophisticated, we think an offer like this is too good to miss. Ideally KPMG would like to start as soon as possible, with a view to being complete by the end of the year.

If you would like to take advantage of this assessment, please contact Roy Hoogmoed (roy.hoogmoed@tec.govt.nz) and he will connect you diretly with KPMG to schedule yours, and explain the finer points. Numbers are limited, so please act quickly.

Ngā mihi
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