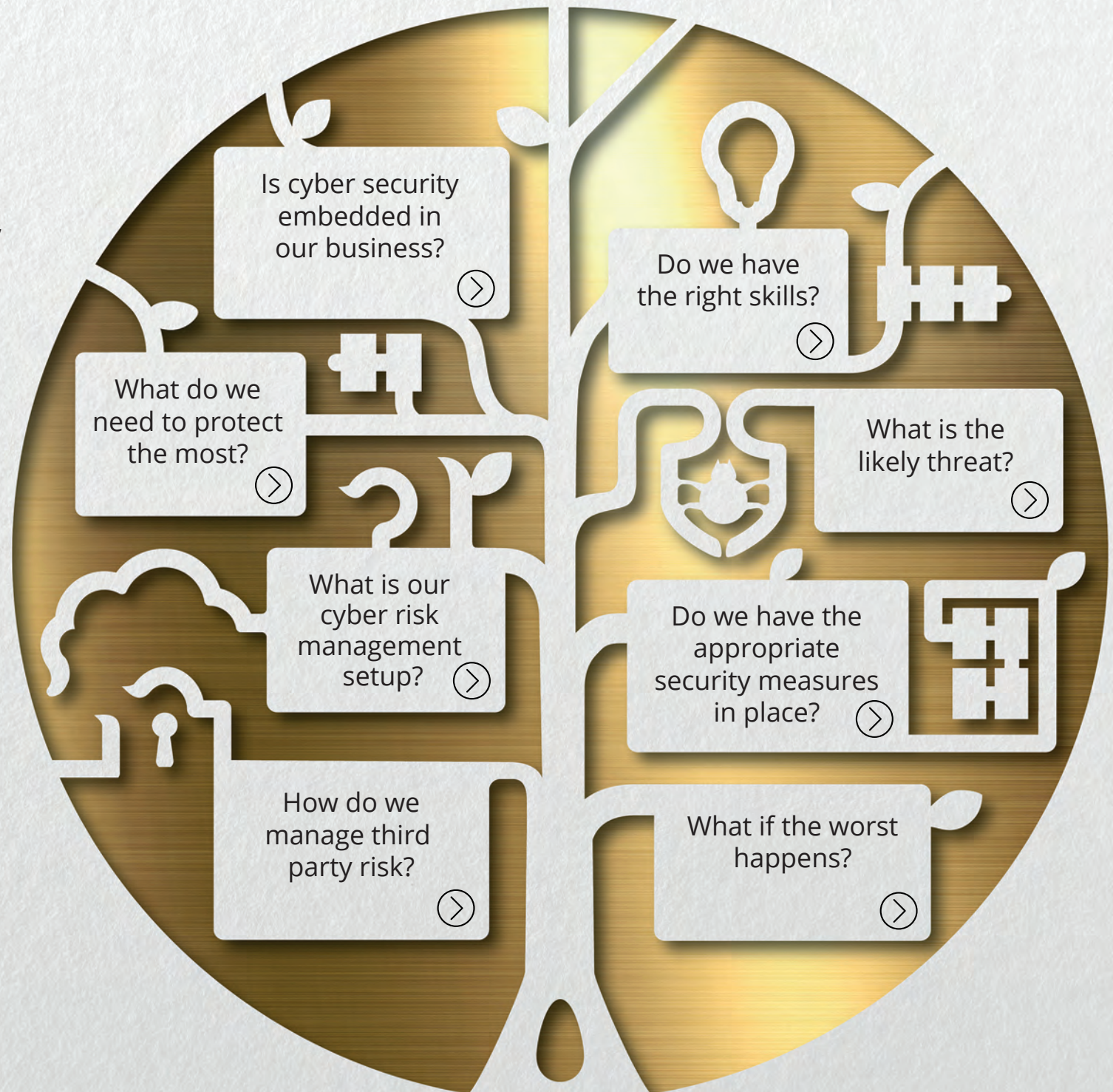


Cyber: Questions to ask yourself

In our discussions with Board members, cyber is a topic that comes up time after time. This is partly because of its technical nature – boards feel ill equipped to ask the right questions and to feel confident they are protecting their business appropriately.

Board members don't need to be technical experts. But you do need to know enough about cyber to be able to have an informed conversation with your experts, and understand the right questions to ask.

So here's our take on the key questions to ask if you want to make sure you're protecting what's most important to your business.



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Is cyber security embedded in our business?

Good cyber security is about people and culture as much as it is about technology – it needs to be embedded in everything you do. Ask yourself:

- Who's responsible for cyber security?
- Is cyber security part of our business risk management process?
- How do we engage our people around cyber security?
- How do we stay on top of best practice?

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What do we need to protect the most?

Whether it's the data you hold, your intellectual property or operational technology, every business has assets they regards as their "crown jewels". Ask yourself:

- Have we defined our critical assets – those we care about the most?
- How do we monitor and protect these critical systems, data or services?

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What is our cyber risk management setup?

Cyber security changes rapidly with new technology and solutions emerging all the time. This can mean that your risk management process can easily become outdated. Ask yourself:

- Do we have a clear definition of the risks we're willing to accept and those we're not?
- How do we know our risk prevention measures will be effective?
- If there's a new threat, how do we inform decision makers quickly?

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How do we manage third party risk?

Third parties increase the number of routes and external touchpoints in to your organisation, so it's essential to manage this appropriately. Ask yourself:

- Do you have a good understanding of your supplier's cyber controls and what data and networks they have access to?
- Do we have a plan for how will we keep this understanding up to date?
- What will we do if one of our suppliers is compromised?

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Do we have the right skills?

Cyber skills are in high demand and short supply. You need to make sure you have the right skills to draw upon. Ask yourself:

- Do we have the right skills and people in place?
- What expertise do we have on the Board?
- How do we keep our skills current?

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What is the likely threat?

Understanding the threats faced by your organisation (and those you work with) will enable you to tailor your approach to cyber security. Ask yourself:

- Which threats are most relevant and why?
- How can you stay up to date – where do you obtain good threat intel from?

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Do we have the appropriate security measures in place?

The right cyber security measures will reduce the likelihood of significant incidents. Ask yourself:

- What cyber security controls do we use to defend against the most common attacks?
- How do we limit the impact of threats that get through our defences?
- How do we keep our IT infrastructure up to date?

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What if the worst happens?

Planning a response to a cyber-incident is the first step in reducing the impact of an attack. Ask yourself:

- What's our incident management plan? Has it been tested?
- How do we know an incident has taken place?
- Who leads and who has delegated authority in the event of an incident?

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