THE SEISO WAY

THE
NEVER-ENDING
QUEST FOR

INFOSEC NIRVANA

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OVERVIEW

COVID-19 has revealed how critical technology is to our way of life. When companies were forced to shutter offices and send millions of workers home to work remotely, the transition had to happen at a blinding pace. In the recent past, technology projects on this scale would have taken years to develop and implement. Instead, the pandemic reset how things got done. Not since the moonshot project in the 1960s has such a monumental change in technology occurred.

While we are still coming to terms with this pivot, leaders must not lose sight of the fundamentals. It is no small task to effectively protect this new, massive investment that is tenuously dependent upon every single employee of their organization. Everyone is now facing a brave new world in which the way information security and cybersecurity are designed, built, and sustained is critical. The stability of the future is dependent upon this. In this white paper, we will describe Seiso's unique approach to building information and cybersecurity programs. Find out why the infosec way forward is the Seiso way.

The following document outlines how Seiso approaches the constantly changing, quickly evolving world of business and delivers solutions to today's issues and strategies for tomorrow's challenges.

INTRODUCTION

nirvana

noun | nir·va·na

1. A transcendent state in which there is neither suffering, desire, nor sense of self, and the person is released from the effects of karma and the cycle of death and rebirth.

Achieving nirvana is to make earthly experiences like suffering and desire disappear. Getting there requires work, patience, preparation, and ascendance through understanding.

When it is said someone "reaches nirvana," it means they have reached a place where outside forces have no impact on them. In the world of information security, this is a lofty goal. As anyone in the field knows, perfection is impossible.

Instead, Seiso proposes that reaching infosec nirvana is found in the pursuit of excellence. Excellence that is attainable through the Seiso Way.

INTRODUCTION

It wasn't all that long ago that public Wi-Fi hot spots were rare. Two-factor authentication was an extra step; now it's standard. Yesterday's challenges quickly become the norm in today's information security world. As soon as those problems were solved, a new threat would emerge and challenge everything about protecting data and systems. That's why at Seiso, we think of our process as:

THE NEVER-ENDING QUEST FOR

INFOSEC NIRVANA

We believe that the constant changes in technology require a mindset and approach that enable us to be flexible and nimble in our thinking to keep our clients, businesses, data, and information secure.

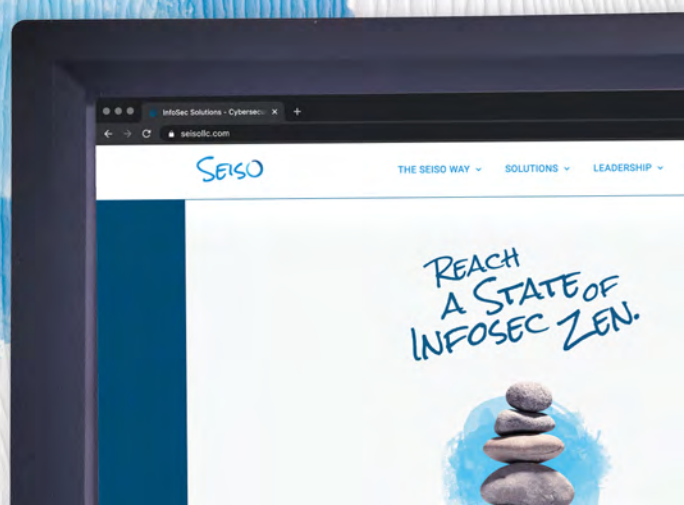
As we conquer one challenge, we anticipate the next threat by preparing smart, simple strategies that are effective yet unencumbering. Ascending from one issue to the next is how Seiso keeps our partners protected and ahead of the curve.

THE CURRENT PICTURE

In early 2020 work from home was often an exception. Now it appears to be here to stay. For every employee and connection to your system, there are dozens of new threats. The threat landscape to your systems, data, and information has never been broader.

THAT'S WHY WE ARE HERE.

WE'VE DEVELOPED A PHILOSOPHY AND PROCESS TO CONQUER THESE CHALLENGES, WHILE WE IMMEDIATELY PREPARE FOR WHATEVER IS NEXT.



OUR PHILOSOPHY

SEISO is a Japanese term originating from the 5S manufacturing methodology that enforces clean workspaces, safety, structure, and the ability to easily spot when something is out of place. But the influence from Japanese culture goes even further back. Centuries, in fact. Seiso's approach can be seen in the way of the samurai. The samurai are often thought of as the world's oldest, most dynamic warriors.

But they were so much more. Artists, poets, guides, counselors, philosophers, protectors, — and only when all those tactics failed — warriors. Seiso takes the same approach to business. We take on every role to prevent conflict or issue. We use each and every one of our skills to build and protect our clients' businesses.

This tried and tested approach to business is more relevant than ever, as we help you navigate the ever-changing world of information security by changing the way you envision and approach your business processes.

It also enables us to provide a holistic approach to an organization. Too often, dealing with issues as they arise is the norm. We believe in a comprehensive approach to an entire system, instead of one thing at a time.

THE SEISO WAY

OUR PROCESS

The quest for infosec nirvana has a beginning but there is never an end. This is exemplified by our use of the enso circle: a circle that has a clear starting point but is not fully closed. At the beginning of a project, we take the opportunity to look through a holistic lens. While a daily challenge may be the catalyst that begins the journey, we consciously conduct a systematic, comprehensive exploration of your systems. We gain an understanding of the deep roots and hidden connections of the organism that is your business. The process methodically and purposefully pulls us through critical milestones and, at each step, matures your capabilities, strengthens your security, and increases your value in the marketplace. Even as you grow in size and complexity, you remain nimble, prepared, and at the bleeding edge of future challenges. The Seiso Way is the process by which we create real value for our partners.

OUR PROCESS

1. Enlighten

We start by seeking out what matters most to you. It could be your obligations to your clients, meeting strict government regulations, or keeping private data private. Once we know that, we can apply our talent and wisdom to your situation.

SCOPING EXPLANATION

Enlightenment begins with a scoping process that uncovers what is needed and why. More importantly, we discover the interested parties and why they care. Certainly, the drivers of these issues come from agreements, contracts, regulations, policies, and charters, but these are just the artifacts. We strive to understand which data, systems, people, and processes are impacted by all of these items. As we consider the situation, a picture emerges of what is clutter and what is critical. Through a balanced, risk-based approach, we reveal what is foundational to the success of the business.

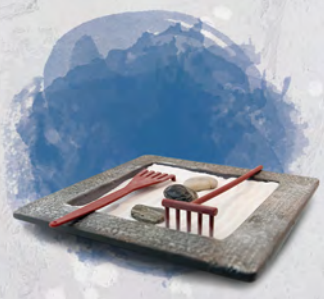
OUR PROCESS

2. Envision

Inner peace is different for everyone, every system, and every process. This is when we focus on finding yours. Once we find your path forward, we can confidently begin the journey.

SETTING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Once we have identified the basic issues, we begin to envision the next steps in the process. By limiting tooling, removing distractions, and ruthlessly prioritizing, we are able to develop information goals and objectives. We conduct risk and threat assessments and otherwise expose the vulnerabilities that must be addressed. We select the controls to address the unacceptable risks and create projects to implement them. High-level policy documents are created, and the whole configuration is mapped out.



OUR PROCESS

3. Establish

Now that we know *the way,* we put one foot in front of the other until we're there. This is where we build systems, processes, procedures, and everything else needed to create a sensible and effective information security program.

INSTALL, MONITOR, MAINTAIN

Having set the direction, we go to work building out procedures to support the policy initiatives. Tooling is built out and tested. Monitoring begins of the mechanisms that ensure the protection. Business as usual takes hold as the beast comes to life. Ownership of the process is assumed by the client, and they are guided as they take control for the first time.

OUR PROCESS

4. ENHANCE

There are no finish lines in information security. Whether your program is emerging or established, we sharpen the focus, making it better, stronger, and perfectly harmonized with your business.

STANDARDIZE AND AUTOMATE

You are up and running, but you cannot walk away. Information security requires an ongoing commitment from the business for it to be successful. Taking the time to begin standardization, tooling upgrades, and additional policy refinement will return immense dividends, as will awareness training and cultural adaptation of a security mindset. The governance of a good program is automated to ensure adherence. The best infosec practices strive to make automation as integrated and transparent as possible, allowing the business to function unhindered by these protections.

OUR PROCESS

5. EVOLVE

This is where we reach infosec nirvana. Key stakeholders gain confidence by knowing they are prepared for what is next, no matter what it is. And as their business continues to change, we adapt with it.

CONTINUOUS PROCESS IMPROVEMENT, STAYING AHEAD OF EMERGING THREATS, AND CORRECTIVE ACTION

In terms of evolution, security practices must keep pace with not only technical innovation but human interaction as well. From adaptation of users to the criminal intent of abusers, the landscape never sits still. That is why partnering with Seiso, whose practitioners live on the bleeding edge of all things governance and security, will keep you in the know of what is next. As life cycles of security practices are born, mature, and die, Seiso will be there to ensure you are not caught in the past, accumulating technical debt and losing your competitive advantage.

CONCLUSION

At Seiso, we trust and believe deeply in our process. It is influenced by the samurai approach. If we study, prepare, and create elegant, powerful systems, rarely, if ever, will we need to take arms to defend. It also is never-ending. Once we complete the "Evolve" phase of our process, we begin again, seeking enlightenment, and pursuing the never ending quest for infosec nirvana.

OUR STEADFAST APPROACH AND TRUST IN OUR PROCESS ALLOW US TO DELIVER PROTECTION AND HARMONY IN OUR CLIENTS' NEVER-ENDING QUEST FOR

INFOSEC NIRVANA

SEISO

FOUNDED IN 2017, SEISO IS A PITTSBURGH-BASED INFORMATION SECURITY FIRM.

Seiso offers comprehensive solutions to help clients navigate security issues critical to their businesses. Seiso's strategic and tactical approach to security is built upon leading industry management principles of structure, organization, and simplicity — values that the company applies to everything they do.

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