Meet your critical cybersecurity staffing needs with a Virtual Security Team

For research facilities that face challenges meeting their cybersecurity goals due to personnel shortages, budget constraints, or lack of time and expertise, engaging a ResearchSOC Virtual Security Team can provide a cost-effective, rapid-implementation method to address key cybersecurity needs.

Virtual, fractional, dedicated expertise
The ResearchSOC Virtual Security Team (VST) service helps meet those needs with a team of cybersecurity professionals experienced in supporting open science research projects. The team augments, but does not replace, existing research organization employees.

Under the provisions of a contract or grant, the team designs a cybersecurity program that addresses priority or identified cybersecurity needs with a group of fractional (i.e., less than full-time) employees.

For example, a team could have a remote CISO at .3 FTE, one or two remote security analysts at .45 FTE, and access to an on-call ("break glass") incident response team.

ResearchSOC provides NSF and other research projects and organizations with virtual security teams in the form of fractional cybersecurity professionals whose skills, knowledge, and experience align directly with and make them uniquely qualified to address cybersecurity risks. Four levels of service are offered:

- **Virtual Security Team**: A virtual, partial FTE team lead and team tailored to the strategy and needs of a particular facility or project in conjunction with a virtual CISO, CISO advisory, or as a stand-alone package.
- **Virtual CISO**: A virtual, partial-FTE qualified CISO to embed within a research facility or organization and serve all CISO functions.
- **CISO Advisory**: A partial-FTE CISO-level security expert who does NOT act as organizational CISO, but is there to advise and coach the organization and its leadership and advise on targeted cybersecurity projects.
- **Red Phone**: Short-term, on-demand access to skilled cybersecurity personnel who integrate with the organization’s cybersecurity team, providing added capacity and specialist skills needed in resolving a specific cybersecurity incident.

These services offer a cost-effective solution to address top cybersecurity risks, control costs, address personnel management issues, and progress the development of a culture of cybersecurity in open science.

ResearchSOC Virtual Security Team Services can address the following issues:

- Meeting the unique challenges of research-specific cybersecurity
• Controlling the cost of cybersecurity budgets

• Catching up/ jump starting cybersecurity programs

• Acquiring, developing, and providing a career path for maintaining, managing, and retaining cybersecurity talent

• Providing for needed specialized emergency/incident management resources without increasing headcount

ResearchSOC Virtual Security Team services help facilities to:

Jumpstart/catch up cybersecurity capability
ResearchSOC CISO Advisory service is ideal for IT leaders who want to accelerate progress and capability in their cybersecurity programs while keeping the CISO function in house, not adding staff headcount, and leveraging minimal financial resources.

Control costs while providing needed leadership and expertise
A CISO’s salary can be the biggest line item in a security budget. But not all projects require a full time chief cybersecurity officer -- recruiting for (and retaining) individuals for a part-time position, even for a junior individual, is exceptionally challenging. ResearchSOC Virtual CISO provides projects and facilities with an experienced, part-time, virtual CISO, allowing management to make greater investments in their security team.

Concentrate on science while safeguarding data
When facilities and projects need a complete cybersecurity team but are challenged by resource constraints and lack of in-house expertise, ResearchSOC Virtual Security Team allows those facilities to concentrate on the science while ensuring leadership and staff with special skills are in place. A ResearchSOC Virtual Security Team of fractional FTE relieves the facility of hiring, retention, career progression, professional development burdens while providing the right-sized team necessary to build, run, and manage a program. Where a facility needs more specialized resources to manage incidents than budgets allow, subscription to the ResearchSOC Red Phone service ensures those assets are trained and ready.

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