



# Security Awareness Programs

Effective security awareness programs help to strengthen an organization's overall security position by focusing on its business and security objectives.

The genesis for an organization's security awareness program is its security policy. The objective of a security awareness program is the education of the organization's employees on the details of its security policy, and industry recognized best practices for safe computing. This should include why the organization has a security policy, and how the organization measures, controls, and enforces its security policy.

## Strategic Alignment

**Review security policy** →

**Create syllabus** →

**Tailored training materials** →

**Implement**

VantagePoint Security's™ approach to developing a Security Awareness Program begins with a **review** of your **security policy**. This will help us to better understand what values need to be imparted to your employees. We will also analyze your security policy for compliance with industry-accepted standards such as ISO17799, and confirm that your policy aligns with – and supports your organization's business goals. This results in an awareness program that is tailored to address your specific business requirements and security objectives.

Next, we **create a syllabus**, identifying components of your program that are best suited for interactive training – and those that should be reinforced with periodic refreshers. This step will help ensure that your **tailored training materials** fit the unique needs of your organization; this would include how you choose to **implement** your Security Awareness Program.

Your tailored Security Awareness Program will help strengthen your overall security program.

## Tailoring your Security Awareness Program

On-going Security Awareness Programs can be delivered in a number of ways – depending on what best fits your organization's unique needs. Options to consider include:

- Security awareness training:
  - Web-based eLearning & on-site
- New employee orientation
- Train-the-trainer programs
- Brown bag training sessions
- Awareness e-mail messages
- Monthly awareness themes
- Periodic messaging
- Annual testing
- Evaluation testing

### Security Awareness Training

Security awareness training is the single most important component of your Awareness Program. Whether you choose face-to-face on-site classes, web-based eLearning courses, or a combination of the two, our training solutions are designed to meet your security awareness requirements. Both solutions can be custom tailored to fit your company's culture and ways of doing business.

One of the most cost-effective training solutions is our web-based eLearning training. Select from a number of standardized training courses built on industry-recognized security standards such as ISO 17799. Or choose to have it customized to incorporate your company's security policy guidelines, which could include regulatory requirements such as PCI DSS, HIPAA, NERC, or any other guidelines required by industry regulations.

With your business and customer needs in mind, this approach offers your employees the convenience of focused training when it best fits their schedule - allowing your employees the flexibility to choose when training makes the most sense. Training within a course can be suspended at any time and resumed when convenient, allowing flexibility for even the most interrupt-driven jobs.

An administrator's dashboard provides easy management of the eLearning training program and participants. Built-in reporting tools deliver a variety of informative reports, including company-wide statistics - offering management the insight needed to determine what areas require additional emphasis.

### New Employee Orientation

An effective way to indoctrinate security awareness is to incorporate a strong – yet simple – security message into your new-employee orientation program.

### Brown Bag Training Sessions

These informal, yet informative sessions are tailored for smaller audiences, providing the opportunity for two-way interaction: audience participation further adds to the retention value. 'war stories' and events specific to your business that are shared in such sessions can help to reinforce awareness for your employees.

### Awareness eMail Messages

A high-quality security awareness program is "sticky" in the sense that the information imparted to employees is useful and stays with them.

### Monthly Awareness Themes

Effective training comes from a combination of focused materials and an awareness campaign that constantly changes and attracts attention. In order to be interesting and valuable, it also needs to disseminate information through a variety of media. Materials can take the form of brochures, flyers, posters, cheat sheets, and even cartoons.

### Periodic Messaging

Informing employees on the goals and objectives of your awareness program will help to promote ownership in the program – and improve results. Keeping employees apprised on the progress of your awareness program is an essential part of maintaining that level of involvement, and the commitment needed to make your program a success. Periodic update messages will help accomplish this task. These messages can be distributed as a stand-alone security focused newsletters, or supplement an existing newsletter program.

### Web-based Evaluation Testing

Developing a security awareness training program that fits the unique requirements of your organization requires an understanding of their existing level of knowledge – strengths and weaknesses. With our web-based evaluation test, we can quickly assess what your organization understands well – and areas that need focus.

### Annual Testing

Your security awareness program is an ongoing function, and needs to be treated as a continuous cycle of planning, action, feedback and improvement. Annual security policy review sessions coupled with competency testing, is an effective method for measuring the results of your security awareness program, and planning for improvement.

### Summary

VantagePoint Security Awareness Programs equip employees with the knowledge they need in order to protect your critical business functions and information.

### Contact

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