STATE OF EXECUTIVE CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS

Let's face it: senior leaders at organizations across the globe are already **pressed for their time and attention.** Today's changing threat landscape requires executives and managers to fundamentally rethink their approach when it comes to addressing and mitigating cyber-risk.

With the growth in cloud, mobile, and IoT, combined with employee and supply chain access to critical data and intellectual property, security and privacy awareness is now front and center for executives in the fight against cyberthreats. Yet finding the time for executives to effectively educate themselves in order to prevent cyberthreats continues to be a challenge.

Take a look below at how executives and managers across various industries compared to the general population in terms of their knowledge of cybersecurity and data privacy best practices.

In our survey of **724** executives and managers, **nearly 80%** could be putting their company in danger with risky behaviors around security and privacy.

80% of executives and managers

vs

70% of general population

struggle with cybersecurity and data privacy awareness.

Based upon survey respondent's answers, we assigned them to one of three different risk profiles, which indicate the survey-taker's privacy and security awareness IQ. The three risk profiles — Risk, Novice, and Hero — are based on the percentage of privacy and security-aware behaviors correctly identified, out of a possible 31 correct answers. The more correct behaviors an employee can identify, the less of a privacy and security risk they represent.

OVERALL:

	RISK (0-23)	HERO (29-31)
EXECUTIVES AND MANAGERS	41%	20%
GENERAL POPULATION	19%	30%

Executives and managers

AT GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

had the worst scores in all eight risk categories across all five industries except one *(identifying personal information).*

FINANCE EXECUTIVES AND MANAGERS

scored the worst when it came to identifying personal information (22%).

MORE THAN 1/3

of education and finance executives and managers exhibited risky behaviors around **physical security.**

More than 1 in 4 education and finance industry executives and managers exhibited considerably higher risky behavior in

REMOTE AND MOBILE COMPUTING SCENARIOS.

Executives and managers in

EDUCATION

were the **2nd worst group** at identifying phishing attempts and identifying the warning signs of malware.

RETAIL EXECUTIVES AND MANAGERS

displayed their **worst scores** in:

APPROPRIATE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA	28%
PHYSICAL SECURITY	34%

HEALTHCARE EXECUTIVES AND MANAGERS

were considered the **least risky,** with the **lowest risk scores** in all categories compared to the other industries.

62% 53%

GOVERNMENT and **EDUCATION** executives and managers had the

HIGHEST NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS IN THE "RISK" PROFILE.

RETAIL AND HEALTHCARE INDUSTRIES

had the **highest number of executives and managers in the "hero" profile.**

27% 24%

Compared to the general population surveyed in our 2017 State of Privacy and Security Awareness Report,

EXECUTIVES AND MANAGERS ACROSS ALL INDUSTRIES **scored worse** in:

- Identifying Personal Information
- Physical Security
- Identifying Phishing Attempts
- Identifying Malware Warning Signs

CONCLUSION

The numbers don't lie. Executives and managers across all industries need to make a concerted effort to not only promote and cultivate a risk-aware culture within their teams, **but also to practice what they preach.** *How is this possible?*

With the launch of our game-changing SaaS awareness platform, LearningLAB, you have the ability to configure your security and privacy awareness program to fit your unique needs (which also includes training your higher-ups to know the warning signs of malware, phishing, and the like). Take your awareness program to the next level and deploy the right training, at the right time, *to the right people.*

SEE LEARNINGLAB IN ACTION

From the boardroom to the breakroom, every employee at every company needs to help in the fight against cybercrime. And although they're busier than ever, don't let your executives and managers off the hook, because they could be putting your company in jeopardy!

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