

# A Virtual Chief Information Security Officer (vCISO) Case Study

## Managing Risk by Building Resilience to Cyber Threat

A healthcare nonprofit was challenged to respond proactively to the need for a higher level of protection against damaging cyber threats. Propelex's Virtual CISO solutions for Strategic Planning, Risk Management, Incident Response and Business Continuity Planning, are helping the company meet the needs of an ever-evolving risk environment.








### Understanding and Planning for the Future

Adequate protection of information assets and technologies requires that organizations have not only a thorough understanding of their business environment, but also an overall information security strategy. Expertise in strategic planning is a primary leadership domain of the CISO role.

The Client occupies a complex business environment in the healthcare field and required strategic planning custom tailored to meet their operational and compliance context.

Propelex Virtual CISO responded with an action plan for immediate **security leadership**:

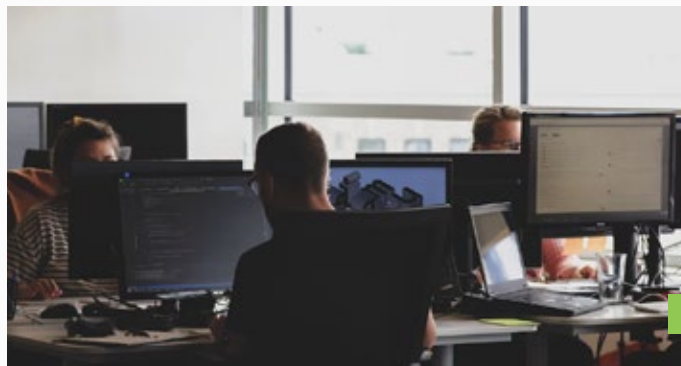


-  Developed a security road map that understood the Client's business and prioritized solutions according to need
-  Defined a capability maturity model, as well as a process for continuous improvement
-  Built an internal security team capable of meeting emerging challenges
-  Aligned the new security vision with not only relevant standards and best practices, but also the larger organizational service mission
-  Developed a plan to manage risk, including incidents and potential downtime

## Managing Risk Smarter and Better

The Client required a more robust risk function, one that was aligned with their unique organizational needs that include compliance with HIPAA, PCI, and other rigorous standards. The Propelex Virtual CISO began with a comprehensive risk assessment that set a baseline for project scope, identified and analyzed risks, implemented appropriate controls, and generated audit-ready support documentation. Follow on operations included:

- Established a risk management framework
- Developed risk mitigation strategies
- Streamlined internal risk communications and bolstered risk awareness
- Matured overall risk capabilities
- Created a framework to prioritize ongoing risk management activities



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## Agile and Effective Incident Response

Incident response planning and disaster recovery are critical capabilities to have in the modern business environment. The unprecedented scope and continuous evolution of threats requires the expertise that only a seasoned CISO can provide.

Essential to an overall risk-focused strategic plan was a comprehensive and well-defined process for incident response planning and disaster recovery. The Propelex Virtual CISO developed protocols to recognize, contain, and assess incidents, as well as subsequent processes for remediation and improvement. Compliance standards, including NIST and CIS, were used to create a framework that demonstrates best practices and positions the company to be more resilient.

## Looking Ahead

Businesses with a CISO in place record higher levels of confidence in their security stance and are positioned to make better risk decisions. With assistance from Propelex's Virtual CISO solution, the Client has a framework to implement new security processes and technologies, while thoroughly modernizing its security posture.

Contact our team today to have a discussion about your information security goals and how a Propelex Virtual CISO can help you achieve them.