



## ***Doing Business Securely***

### **Information Assurance: covering your liability**

*Information is becoming one of the most important assets of an organization. How would you do business without assurance that your information is correct, available when needed and only accessible for those who are authorised? In addition to this, information is becoming more mobile due to the increasing usage of portable computers and mobile storage devices, like usb-sticks, smart phones and mp3 players. On the other hand, the organization's perimeter dissolves with the introduction of online business-to-consumer (B2C) and business-to-business (B2B) applications, extranets or employee accessible web communications. These trends have a major impact on your organization's sensitive information, not only from an outsider perspective, but mostly from an insider perspective. Most information disclosure incidents originate from an insider accidental loss than from a malicious outsider attack. The main question is how this reflects to the confidentiality and integrity of your information, business or customer transactions.*

***The most important fact is that ultimately the CEO and corporate management can be held liable when an information leakage incident occurs and when proper due-care and information leakage protection controls are not operational.***

#### **Do you care? We do!**

Ascure Information Assurance Services will help you cover your liability and be compliant with national and international regulations. Information Assurance Services consist of several key services that will help you analyze risks involved, classify your information, analyze and create policies and procedures and define and evaluate proper information leakage protection controls. In addition, we work closely with a specialized IT-law firm in order to be able to verify compliancy with national and international regulations.

#### **Why is liability becoming an issue?**

As information is more digitized, mobilized and spread than ever, Information Assurance is gaining importance for companies and their management. Companies need to keep their sensitive information confidential from external AND internal parties avoiding information becoming accessible for unauthorized individuals.

By applying due-care and industry standards and best practices, your CEO and management liability can be limited in case of disaster.

On daily basis, information leakage incidents are published on the internet with dramatic reputation and financial damages as a consequence. The average cost per information leakage incident is estimated to be 6.6 million dollar. In most cases, the concerned organisation did not have the necessary security policy and information leakage protection controls in place, which made the incident possible. In addition, national and international regulations become stricter. International directives such as the EU Data Protection Directive, EU Privacy Directive, BASELII and SOX or national law such as the Data Privacy Act and the directives of the privacy commission play a major role when it comes to protecting your organisation's information.

#### **About Ascure**

Ascure is specialized in operational risk management consultancy and staffing. Operational risk management, information security, business continuity and compliance to laws and regulations are major cornerstones of our services.

Ascure assists its customers with the incorporation of operational risk management at all levels and in all areas of their organization, including day-to-day operational decisions. No decision should be taken in any organization without applying proper operational risk management. It can be applied throughout the entire life cycle of any activity or project. In order to minimize risk, it is however preferable to apply operational risk management at the starting phase of a project or operational activity.

#### **About Ascure Academy**

Ascure offers, through the Ascure Academy, an extensive education and awareness program, covering several open classes, events and customized education experiences.

#### **Contact**

For further and additional information, please contact us on Tel. +32 (0)9 243 10 20 or [info@ascure.com](mailto:info@ascure.com)

On all Ascure services our general terms of delivery apply.

In many organizations these laws and directives are not known which could lead to criminal prosecution if not followed. In addition, an organization can be denied compensation in case of a successful security breach.

The Information Assurance Services answers multiple challenges in covering liability: these services help you to protect your most valuable assets and more important your liability by protecting your sensitive information, business and customer information and helps you to be compliant with regulatory requirements.

### **Information Assurance Services**

Ascure offers three main services

- Data Classification
- Information (Data) Leakage Prevention
- Trust Services & Policy Framework

### **Data Classification**

In order for an organization to be able to scale the value of its information, a Data Classification Policy must be defined. The value of information needs to be assessed in function of confidentiality, integrity, financial or reputation damage in case of loss, or other company specific values.

**The Information Assurance Data Classification Service helps your organization defining a Data classification Policy in order for your company to be able to discover, organize and define the value of your information. By doing so, the service helps you to reduce your management liability within the organization.**

### **Information (Data) Leakage**

#### **Prevention**

When the Data Classification Policy has been defined, it needs to be applied and implemented in the organization. Taken into account that information can occur in different states (in storage, in use, in transit and external), proper security controls need to be defined and applied to make sure that the Data Classification Policy is enforced on the information, independent of the state the information.

### **Trust Services & Policy Framework**

Currently, an organization can not function or conduct business without sufficient certainty and required levels of trust. Consistent simple questions arise like how do you ensure the confidentiality of your or your business partner's information? How do you guarantee the integrity of your partner's data? How do you handle authenticity verification and non-repudiation? The solution which is required to be able to answer all of these questions is the necessity to have a trust foundation.

**The Information Assurance Trust Services & Policy Framework service helps your organization defining a Trust Foundation and required processes and procedures. By doing so, the service helps you to reduce your management liability within the organization.**

### **Ascure Information Assurance Competence Center**

Consultants working at Ascure are very competent and specialised in the area of Information.

Assurance. They are often hired for their specific knowledge and experience. Such assignments can be very short or span several months and can vary from PKI (Public Key Infrastructure) specialism to strategic coaching, but will always be in correlation with your business objectives.

Below several profiles are listed:

- **Information Assurance coach** is your strategic Information Assurance consultant; he is not involved in the operational and implementation details but will make sure that the Information Assurance program is in line with the defined vision and strategy. He is used to look for pragmatic solutions, to think outside the box and to focus on your business needs.
- **Information Assurance Architects** are specialized in assessing the current situation, gathering the requirements, understanding the business needs, and proposing an adequate solution for the challenges you face. Some architects are more generic, others are more focused on specific topics like i.e. PKI, digital certificates, encryption, data classification or digital signatures.
- **Information Assurance Project/Program Leaders** are responsible for the full project/program or for a specific phase. Major distinction with general project/program leaders is their mix of Information Assurance knowledge with project management skills.

Interested in world-class education and training: visit the website of the Ascure Academy ([www.ascureacademy.eu](http://www.ascureacademy.eu)).

For more information, please contact:

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