

The case for more tabletop exercises:

I would like to commend your team for the ongoing efforts in strengthening Australia's cyber security strategy and infrastructure. As a proactive measure, I would like to make a strong case for the incorporation of frequent and expert-led tabletop exercises in your overall cyber security strategy.

Tabletop exercises have proven to be an invaluable tool in identifying vulnerabilities, enhancing communication, and fostering a culture of preparedness within organizations. Conducting these exercises on a regular basis allows organizations to continuously assess, evaluate, and improve their cyber security preparedness and response capabilities.

In the context of cyber security, there are several reasons why frequent, expert-led tabletop exercises should be an integral part of your strategy:

1. **Evolving Threat Landscape:** Cyber threats are constantly evolving, with new attack vectors and tactics emerging at an alarming rate. Regular tabletop exercises enable organizations to keep pace with these changes and adapt their defensive measures accordingly.
2. **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** Cyber security is a complex and multifaceted issue that requires collaboration across multiple disciplines and sectors. Tabletop exercises provide an ideal platform for fostering such collaboration, allowing participants to gain a holistic understanding of the cyber security landscape and to develop effective, coordinated responses to potential incidents.
3. **Identification of Vulnerabilities:** By simulating realistic cyber-attack scenarios, tabletop exercises enable organizations to identify vulnerabilities in their existing policies, procedures, and infrastructure. This information can then be used to prioritize remediation efforts and to allocate resources more effectively.
4. **Enhanced Communication and Information Sharing:** Regular tabletop exercises promote the establishment of clear communication channels and information-sharing protocols between different stakeholders. This is crucial for maintaining situational awareness during a cyber incident and for coordinating an effective response.
5. **Continuous Improvement:** Tabletop exercises provide organizations with valuable insights into their preparedness and response capabilities. By conducting these exercises regularly and incorporating lessons learned, organizations can continuously refine and improve their cyber security posture.

In light of these benefits, I strongly urge the Australian Cyber Security Strategy Team to consider implementing frequent, expert-led tabletop exercises as a key component of your cyber security strategy. By doing so, you will not only enhance the resilience of Australia's critical infrastructure but also foster a culture of preparedness that extends across the entire nation.

Should you require further information or wish to discuss this matter in greater detail, please do not hesitate to contact us at The Long Game Project. I would be more than happy to provide additional insights and to assist in any way I can.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and I look forward to your positive consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr Daniel Epstein,

Director of The Long Game Project.