

# The Role of vCISOs in Strengthening mREIT Cybersecurity



In the dynamic world of Mortgage Real Estate Investment Trusts (MREITs), integrating a Virtual Chief Information Security Officer (vCISO) presents a strategic and cost-effective solution to fortify cyber defenses. In the constantly evolving landscape of cyber threats, coupled with stringent oversight from regulatory authorities like the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the role of a vCISO becomes increasingly vital and valuable.

## What is a Virtual CISO?

A Virtual CISO is a contract-based or part-time Chief Information Security Officer (CISO). This model enables organizations, particularly MREITs, to leverage expert-level cybersecurity knowledge without incurring the costs associated with a full-time executive position. A vCISO can bring extensive experience and specialized expertise, aiding MREITs in maneuvering through the intricate cybersecurity landscape.

The benefits of a vCISO include:

### Compliance and Regulation Guidance



The SEC's vigilant stance on cybersecurity for financial entities, including MREITs, makes compliance a critical issue. A vCISO's expertise extends to navigating these regulatory waters, ensuring that MREITs not only avoid penalties but also maintain the confidence of investors and protect the firm's reputation.

### Customized Cybersecurity



MREITs deal with a plethora of confidential data, including intricate financial transactions and personal client information – data that is highly attractive to cybercriminals. A vCISO customizes cybersecurity strategies to address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of each MREIT. They craft and enforce stringent security protocols to shield sensitive data from cyber threats, aligning with the SEC's regulations on data security and privacy.

### Proactive Response to Emerging Cyber Threats



With cyber threats becoming more sophisticated, a vCISO plays a pivotal role in keeping abreast of the latest trends in cyber threats and security technologies. They ensure the MREIT's cybersecurity infrastructure is both resilient and adaptable, instituting preemptive measures to mitigate the risk of security breaches and data exfiltration.

### A Cost-Effective Solution for Mortgage REITs



Hiring a full-time CISO may be prohibitively expensive, especially for smaller MREITs. The vCISO model provides a financially viable alternative, offering premier cybersecurity expertise without the commitment to a full-time executive salary and benefits package.

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## Cybersecurity Aligned with Business Objectives

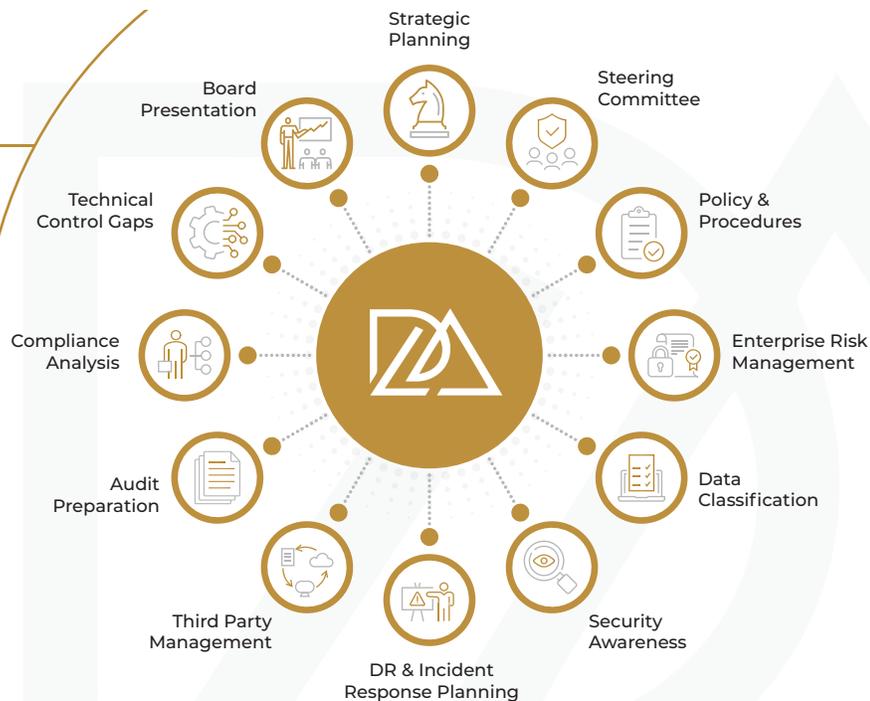


Beyond technical proficiency, a vCISO excels in articulating the importance of cybersecurity in business-relevant terms. They play a pivotal role in communicating the value of cybersecurity investment to stakeholders, linking it directly to the protection of assets, investor confidence, and seamless business operations.

## The Strategic Importance of vCISOs in MREITs

In today's complex cybersecurity landscape, a vCISO offers mREITs a strategic advantage beyond simply protecting sensitive data. By aligning cybersecurity with business goals, a vCISO proactively manages cyber risks, protects brand reputation, and can even provide a competitive edge. This expertise ensures that cybersecurity isn't merely a technical concern, but a core element of an mREIT's overall business strategy, instilling confidence in investors, clients, and regulatory bodies.

### All-Encompassing vCISO Services



At DLA, our vCISO service commences with a vital, complimentary offering: a comprehensive NIST CSF 2.0 assessment.

With DLA's vCISO services, you get on-demand access to a cybersecurity expert who tailors security strategies to fit your timeline and budget, ensuring your organization's security program matures efficiently.

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