

 **DigitalAlliances**
continue collaboration

CISO **Alliances**

**SOUTH AFRICA
CHAPTER**

26 May 2021
Results

CISO **Alliances**


ALLIANCE Media Group

Alliance – ‘A union formed for mutual benefit’

CISO  Alliances



 Digital Alliances
continue collaboration

 Executive Business Exchange

DPO Alliances

CIO Alliances

CISO Alliances

CXO Alliances

CMO Alliances

CDO Alliances

Foreword



Leigh Thomas is an ambitious and passionate executive with a desire for achieving the ideal.

With experience in numerous industries and working within C-level communities across the globe in Oil & Gas, Mining, Power & Enterprise IT, across multiple divisions across the business.

Following his experience with his previous employer and working with leading CIOs & CISO's across EMEA, his understanding of B2B events grew. With his passion for achieving the ideal scenario a plan was founded to strip back what the industry is about. This is where the core values of the Alliance Chapter were born along with Alliance Media Group. Alliance - 'A union formed for mutual benefit'.

Whilst understanding that every business will need to drive commercials to become sustainable in the modern world. Leigh believed that commercials must not be the driver but, a solution to a 'why'. The Event Managed Services industry is spiralling into a dark tunnel of an industry where money is the leader and not the value of time. The industry was born off the back of 'Everybody wants to learn' and Leigh Thomas has created the Alliances to ensure that the end user driven meets, are purely focused around the educational needs of everyone involved and around their business objectives. Zoning in on the best practices in overcoming the common business objectives that motivate activity within each of the end user firms and not simply global trends and themes to generate revenue.

2020 and the Digital environment has been forced for a remote workforce with limited human interaction due to the Coronavirus pandemic since March 2020. From this, our community representative have been relied upon even more for business enablement.

From the event space environment, even more events companies have found an overnight solution of plaguing diaries with event upon event, with revenue driven activities. As an organisation, we will shy away from this and only invite the community to engage when justified. We will also, not be looking for time commitments of more than an hour or two as we understand that life is continued, in the remote style of operating business currently.

Leigh Thomas
Director & Founder

15.15

Welcome Remarks & Joining Time

5.30

Overview

Session Leader: Leigh Thomas, Director – CISO Alliances

Session Title: Introduction and Overview

CISO Alliances

15.40

Content Overview

Session Leader: Oscar Stark, Divisional Director, Centre of Excellence – Liberty Holdings

Session Title: CISO Role in Digital Transformation

Session Focuses (sub-groups):

Customer-Strategy

Culture-Talent

Technolo-Data

16.15

Sub-group Debate

Customer-Strategy – Group 1

Culture-Talent – Group 2

Technolo-Data – Group 3

16.35

Consolidate Findings from Sub-groups

Customer-Strategy – Group 1

Culture-Talent – Group 2

Technolo-Data – Group 3

16.50

Conclusion, Action Areas and Next Steps

Overview and Supporting Resources

Date: [Wednesday, 26th of May 2021](#)

Time: [15.30 pm – 17.00 pm \(SAST\)](#)

Platform: [Digital Alliances](#)

Location: [Digital Alliances – Microsoft Teams Link – Invite Only](#)

Overall Theme:

CISO Role in Digital Transformation – Digital Workshop

The Digital Alliances is a platform created to ensure our communities are enabled to utilise our candid approach to benchmark and to continue collaboration where physical Chapters are restricted



The banner features a dark background with a network of glowing yellow lines. On the left, the 'Digital Alliances' logo is displayed with the tagline 'continue collaboration' and 'South Africa'. The central text reads 'CISO Role in digital transformation'. Below this, the date and time 'Thursday 26th of May 3:30 - 5:00pm (SAST)' are listed, along with the website www.alliances.global and email leigh@alliances.global. On the right, two portrait photos are shown: Oscar Stark, the Session Moderator, and Jashwin Dayaram, the content co-producer. The 'CISO Alliances' logo, which includes a map of Africa, is at the bottom right.

Digital Alliances
continue collaboration
South Africa

CISO Role in digital transformation

Thursday 26th of May 3:30 - 5:00pm (SAST)
www.alliances.global
leigh@alliances.global

Session Moderator
Oscar Stark
Content co-produced by
Jashwin Dayaram
CISO Alliances

Focused Session

CISO Alliances



Session Moderator

Oscar Stark



Content Co Produced by

Jashwin Dayarum

Today Digital Transformation is less of a buzz word and becoming more of a cliché. The reality is that people have been desensitised around the topic, yet many still are not clear what it actually means and what the implications of it is. This reality is becoming more and more pronounced for CISOs who find themselves in a world where what was expected of them in the past is still relevant, but what is expected now in a digital world, is not quite defined. This article explores these realities and puts forward a framework to help the average CISO deal with some of the implications of digital transformation.

Digital transformation can be seen as organisations leveraging the ability of technologies to transform the organisations' abilities (1). Think of how artificial intelligence can automate decisions in real-time, carrying context and meaning. This was not previously possible, and so through these types of technologies, organisations can fundamentally change the way in which they fulfil certain activities and operate.

But you might be asking yourself what is driving this embrace of digital transformation for organisations? Well various aspects can be highlighted, but in essence it can be distilled to the following four:

- Changing of customer needs are fuelled through the increasing expectation of personalisation and meeting previously unmet needs;
- Changing economics where the cost to manufacture services in a digital space is on a decreasing trajectory, creating increased business competition;
- Changing business models, where platforms are starting to become more dominant in scale, and taking more market share; and
- Technologies' ability to solve problems is rapidly increasing, allowing organisations to solve previously unsolvable problems.

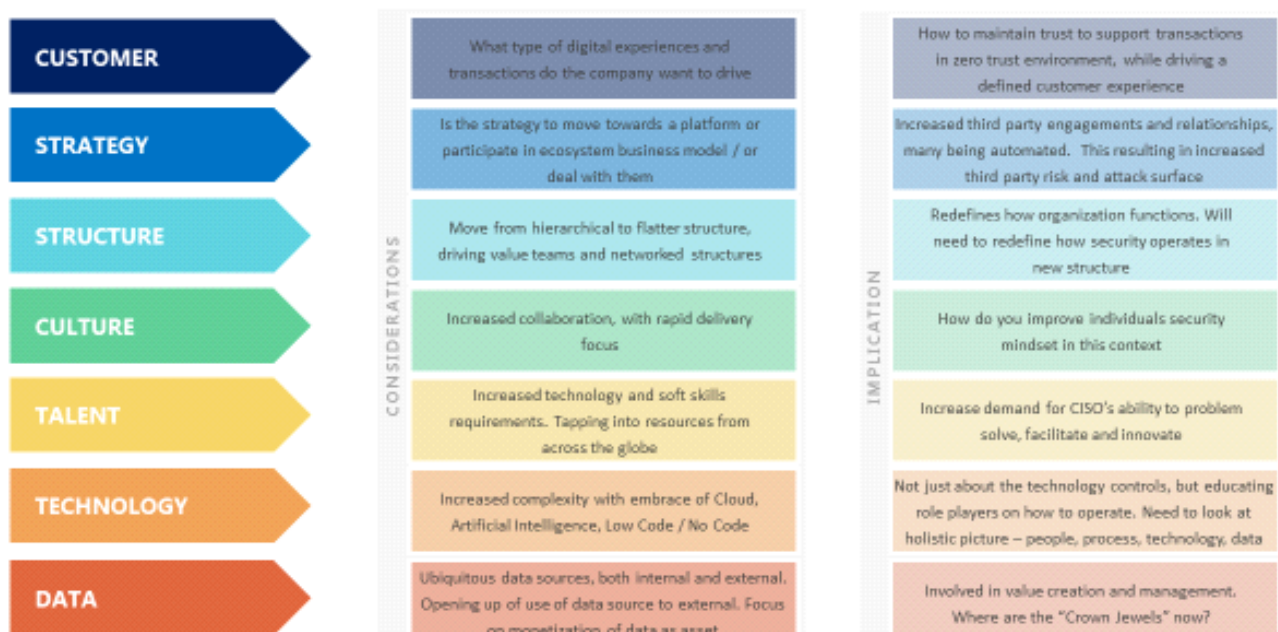
Stemming from these realities, one can expect the future to introduce more change, which leads to more complexity, all transpiring at an exponential rate, as technologies' ability increases. This backdrop is the reality that the average CISO needs to contend with, coming from a world where their primary focus was on protecting the organisation and now moving to a space where the expectation is driving strategy and advising the organisation (2). These realities have been highlighted through various publications, emphasising that the CISO is expected to play out their role as a leader (3) in delivering the organisations digital transformation (4).

This expectation gap requires that the average CISO invests in adding some additional skills and understanding to its armour:

- Ability to effectively solve problems across diverse environments;
- Know how technologies enable strategies;
- Measure value in a digital context, across customer, operations and the business ecosystem
- Know how digital transformation plays out and how to navigate the common pitfall.

Drawing on the common aspects to consider in any digital transformation, and examining the primary outcomes that organisations will be driving across its transformation, the framework below helps convey (as cheat sheet) what the CISO should understand and appreciate as impact to their world.

CISO DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FRAMEWORK



The relevance of the framework was tested through the CISO Alliance, which comprised of a community of seasoned security professionals. Drawing on the expertise of the community, there was a resounding agreement that digital transformation carries high prevalence in their respective companies, where some strategies aim to drive future relevance of their business model, and for others the focus was on increasing the engagement with customers. It was highlighted that the past period under COVID, served as an accelerator as organisations mobilised their efforts to manage their relationships as trusted providers to their respective customers.

Strong emphasis was placed on the importance of how the organisation approaches and engages with digital transformation, ensuring that all functional areas across the organisation appreciate their required change impact as the business lead transformation is played out. Emphasis on skills and collaboration seem to be common areas of concern as organisations drive their strategies, placing a high focus on customer centricity.

Common recognition was carried by all that technology served as an enabler, and as such managing the associated complexity of it, is on the one hand a function of knowledge, but more importantly rests in the nature of trust that people place in the role of the CISO. This trust vesting not only in how protected the organisation is, but also how value is created through its digital assets. Stemming from the review, one can conclude that the framework does provide good use.

Central to digital transformation, information security experts agree that the role of the CISO is being asked to operate in areas that extended beyond the traditional realm of information security. This signalling an opportunity for the CISO to redefine themselves as they move to help drive the creation of value for the business, as a leader.

1 <https://savethedate-digitalnow.com/s/Jeanne-Ross-DN-Presentation.pptx>

2 <https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/in/Documents/risk/in-ra-CISO-as-a-service-noexp.pdf>

3 <https://www.isflive.org/s/article/Becoming-a-next-generation-CISO>

4 <https://www.cyberark.com/resources/white-papers/3-ciso-strategies-for-digital-transformation-success>

5 https://cisr.mit.edu/publication/2021_0301_ValueinDigitalBusiness_SebastianWeillWoerner

Authors:

Jash Dayaram – Information Security Visionary

Oscar Stark – Digital Transformer, Venture Architect, Information Security Aficionado



Alliance - A union formed for mutual benefit


JOIN THE ALLIANCES TO BE INVOLVED WITH FUTURE CHAPTERS

Alliance Media Group (AMG) Ltd and subsequently, the Alliances were deliberately named to include the word 'Alliance' due to its definition from the Collins dictionary. An Alliance stands for 'A union formed for mutual benefit'.

All influencers and contributors should achieve some form of benefit and all Alliances manage the expectations of its customers and participants to coach through the best practices of achieving the outcomes they deserve.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

WE AIM TO RUN THE CHAPTERS ONCE A MONTH PER GEOGRAPHY



CISO Digital Alliances -
State of Qatar - March
24th 2021



CISO Digital Alliances -
South Africa - May 26th
2021



CISO Digital Alliances -
South Africa - June 10th
2021




CISO Digital Alliances -
Durban - June 10th 2021




CISO Digital Alliances -
UK&I - June 17th 2021



CISO Digital Alliances -
Nairobi - June 17th 2021



CISO Digital Alliances -
Nigeria - June 24rd 2021



CISO Digital Alliances -
Cairo Chapter - June 24th
2021

Alliances Activities

CISO Alliances


UK & IRELAND
DUBLIN
EDINBURGH
MANCHESTER
LONDON

 Executive Business Exchange

NORTH AMERICA

CISO Alliances

LAGOS CHAPTER
ACCRA CHAPTER
ABUJA CHAPTER

 Executive Business Exchange

SOUTH AMERICA

CXO Alliances

CISO Alliances

CAIRO CHAPTER



Executive Business Exchange

ASIA

CXO Alliances

RIYADH
DUBAI
DOHA

CXO Alliances

NAIROBI CHAPTER
PORT LOUIS CHAPTER



Executive Business Exchange

AUSTRALIA

Alliance Chapters

Monthly Digital Alliances Chapters
until Physical Chapters are
feasible and safe

CXO Alliances

Gauteng

Kwazulu Natal

Western Cape

CXO Alliances

Riyadh

Dubai

Doha

CISO Alliances

Cairo

Abuja

Accra

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Nairobi

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