



27 MARCH 2025

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Solvay Brussels School
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ISACA
Belgium Chapter

The Changing CISO Role: From Technical Advisor to Navigating the Board Room

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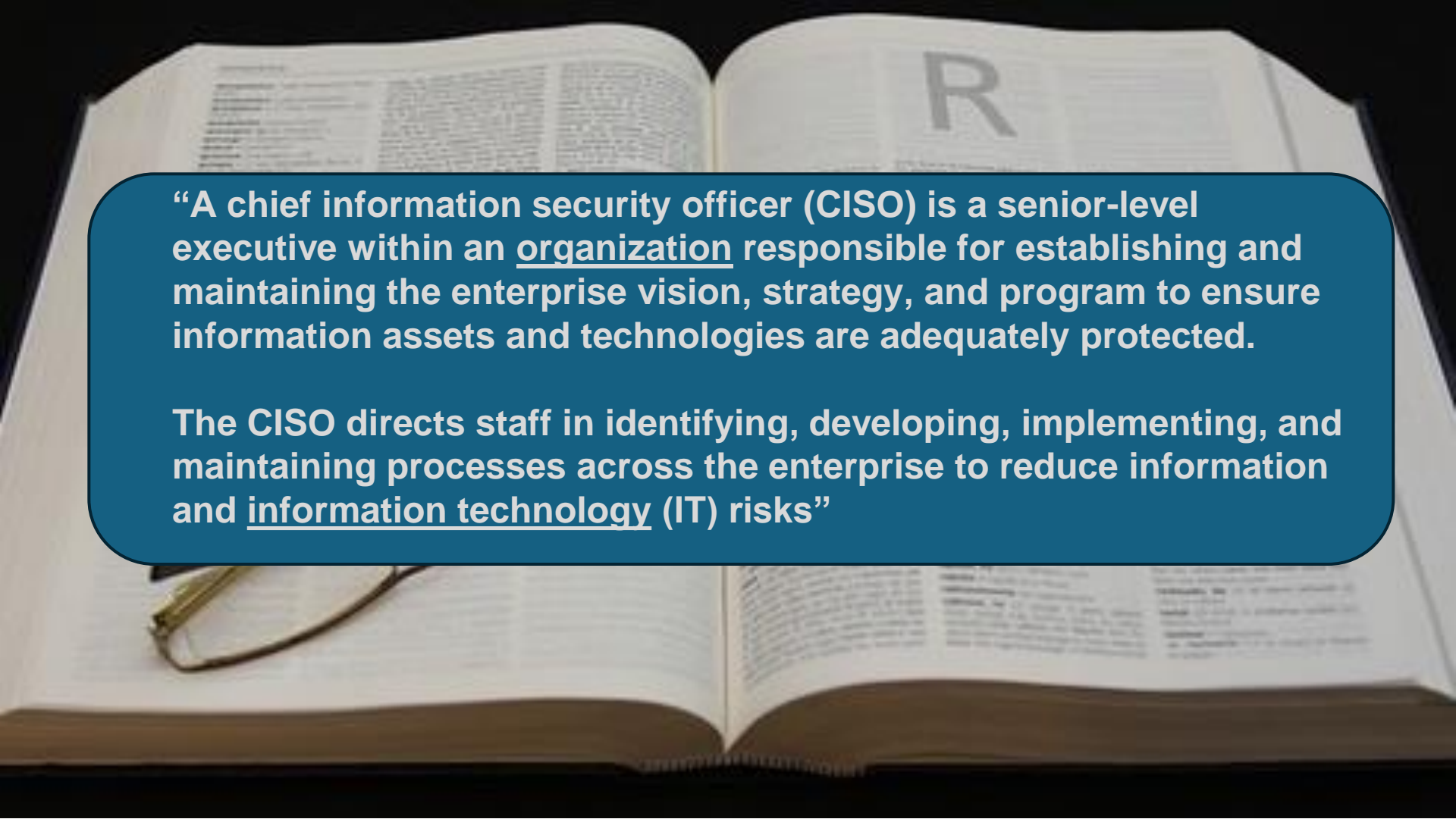
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“A chief information security officer (CISO) is a senior-level executive within an organization responsible for establishing and maintaining the enterprise vision, strategy, and program to ensure information assets and technologies are adequately protected.

The CISO directs staff in identifying, developing, implementing, and maintaining processes across the enterprise to reduce information and information technology (IT) risks”



How can CISO's work with the board to understand, plan for and mitigate risks in the organisation while continuing to encourage innovation for competitive advantage?

What's the Board's role?

Provide
strategic
direction

Provide
governance
and
oversight

Enforce a
Code of
Ethics





Source: "Nominating/Governance Chair Survey 2024." n.d. <https://www.spencerstuart.com/research-and-insight/nominating-governance-chair-survey>. Accessed July 16, 2024.

A donut chart with a large orange segment representing 88% and a smaller grey segment representing 12%. The chart is set against a dark, textured background.

88%

of companies in the
S&P 500 don't have
cybersecurity professionals
on their boards

Source: NightDragon, Securing our world for tomorrow. 2023. "NightDragon, Diligent Report Finds Gap in Cyber Experience in S&P500 Board Rooms." September 29, 2023. <https://www.nightdragon.com/insights/nightdragon-diligent-report-cybersecurity-awareness-board-room/>. Accessed July 16, 2024.



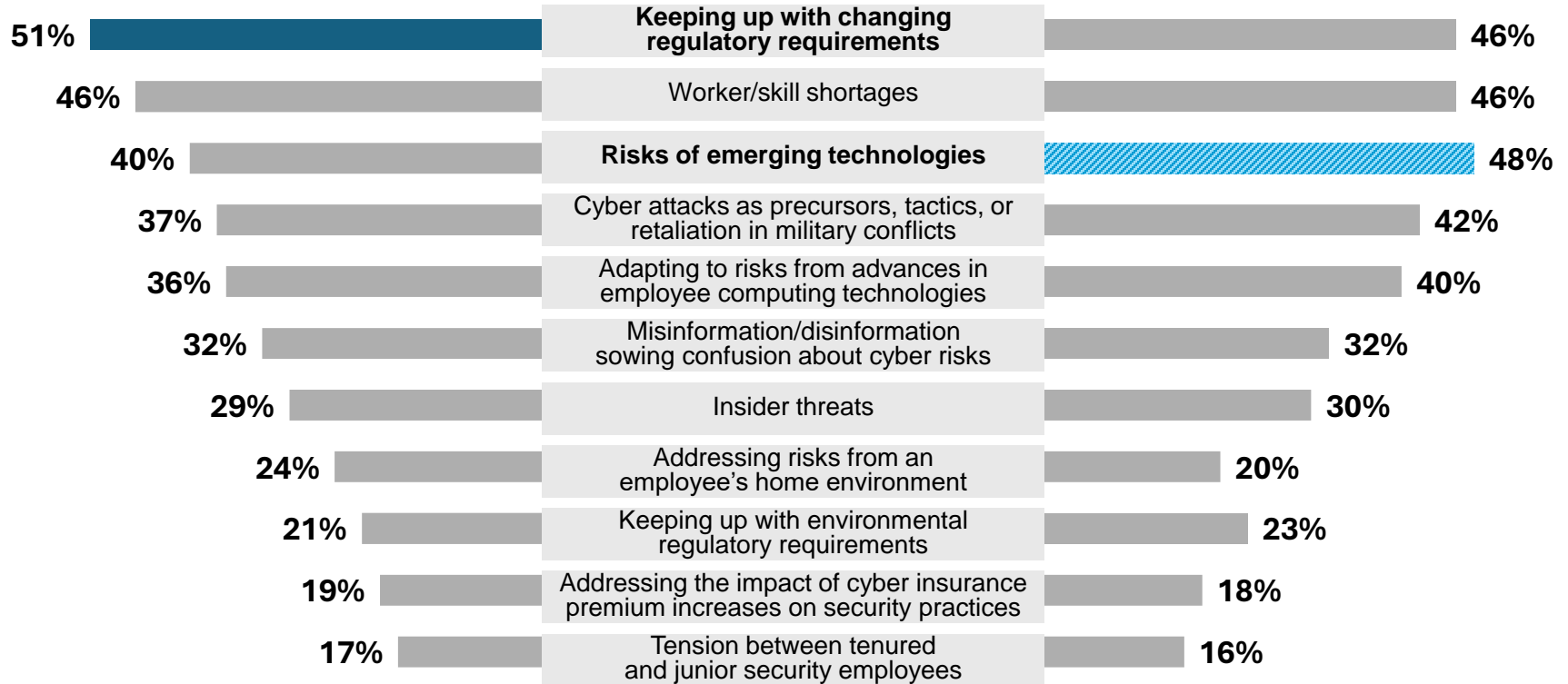
The Regulatory Landscape

Regulations, Laws and Acts

It's getting complex



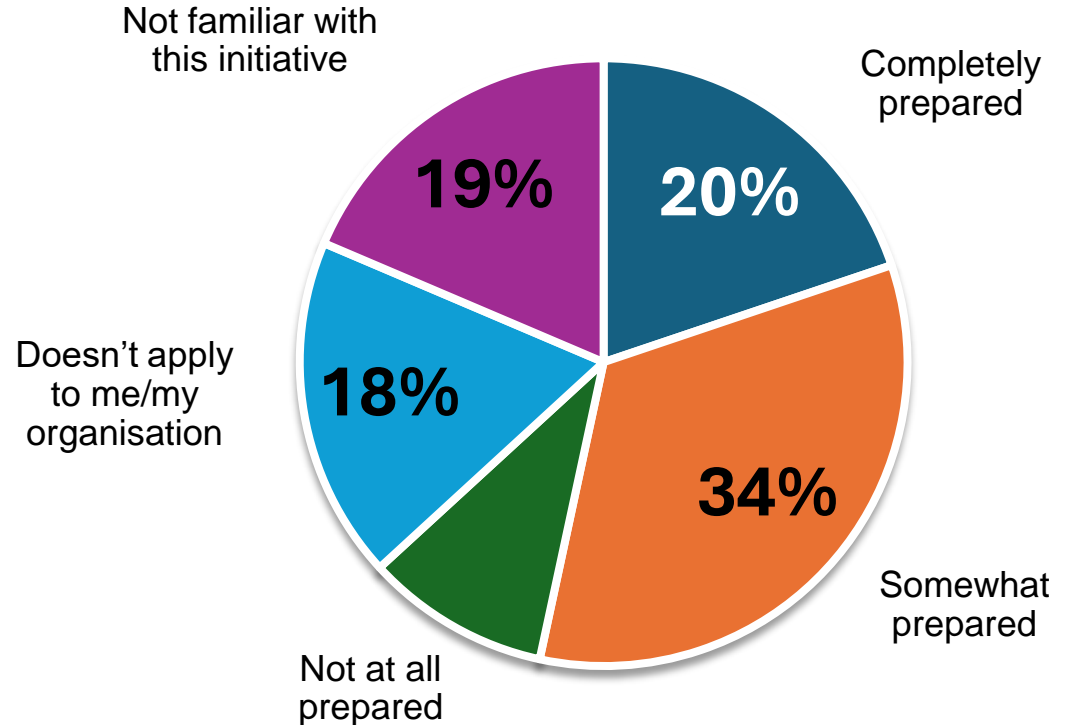
Biggest challenges faced in the E.U. over the *past 12 months*



Source: 2024 ISC2 Cybersecurity Workforce Study.

54%
are prepared
to implement
CRA

Level of preparedness to implement requirements of CRA

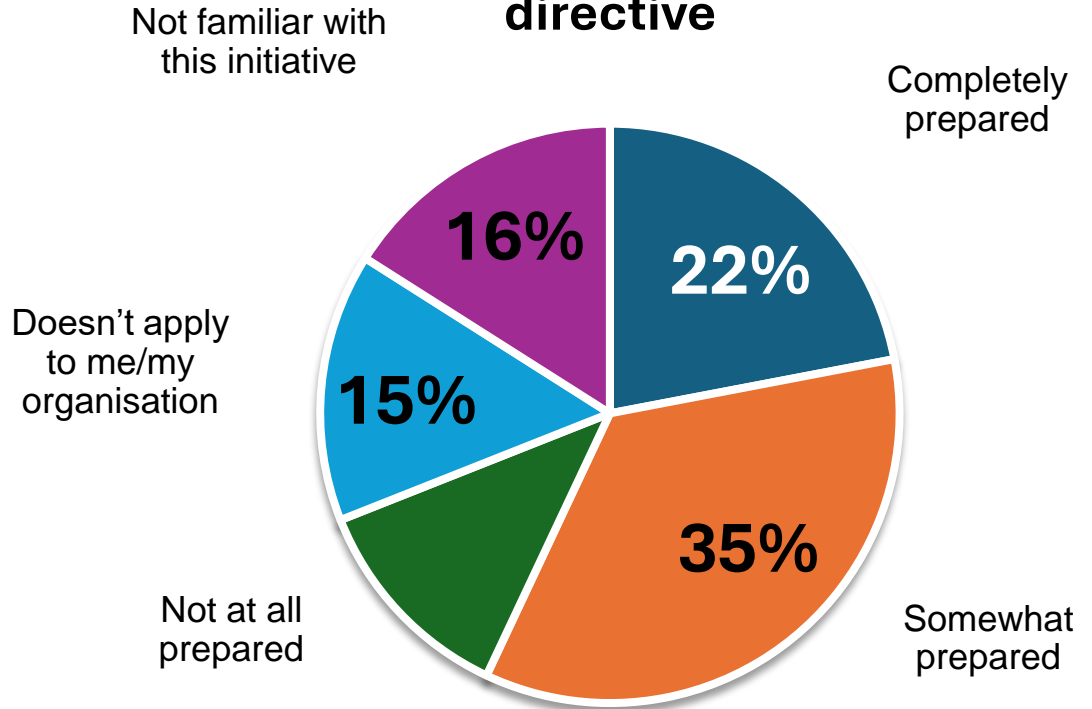


Source: 2024 ISC2 Cybersecurity
Workforce Study.



57%
are prepared
to implement
NIS2

Level of preparedness to implement requirements of NIS2 directive

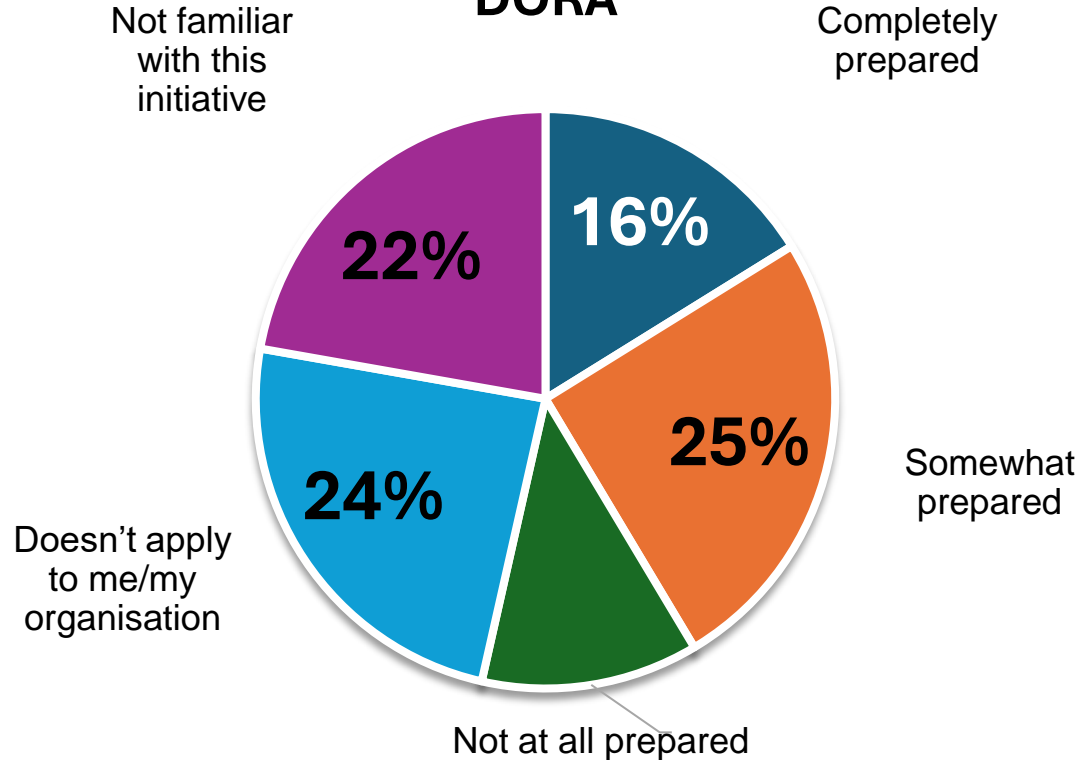


Source: 2024 ISC2 Cybersecurity
Workforce Study.



41%
are prepared
to implement
DORA

Level of preparedness to implement requirements of DORA



Source: 2024 ISC2 Cybersecurity
Workforce Study.





The Tech Landscape

Light

Legacy

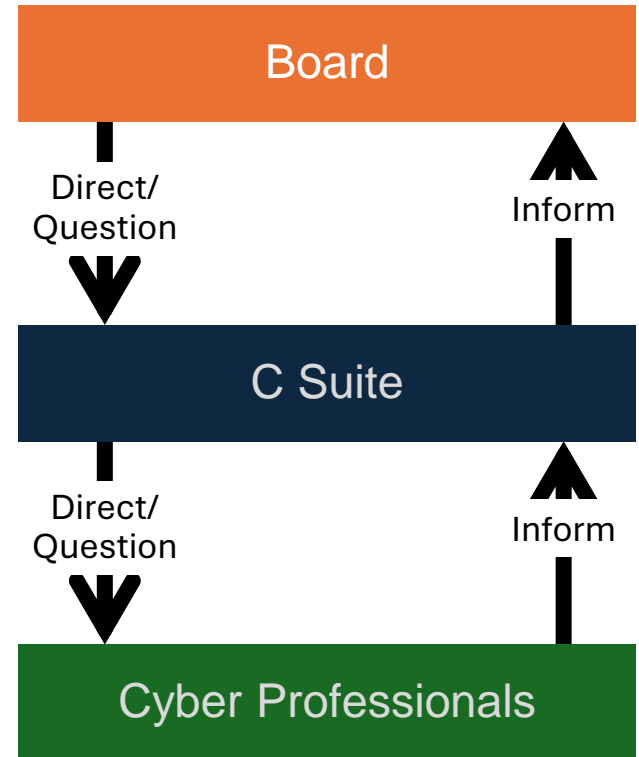
Emerging

Deep

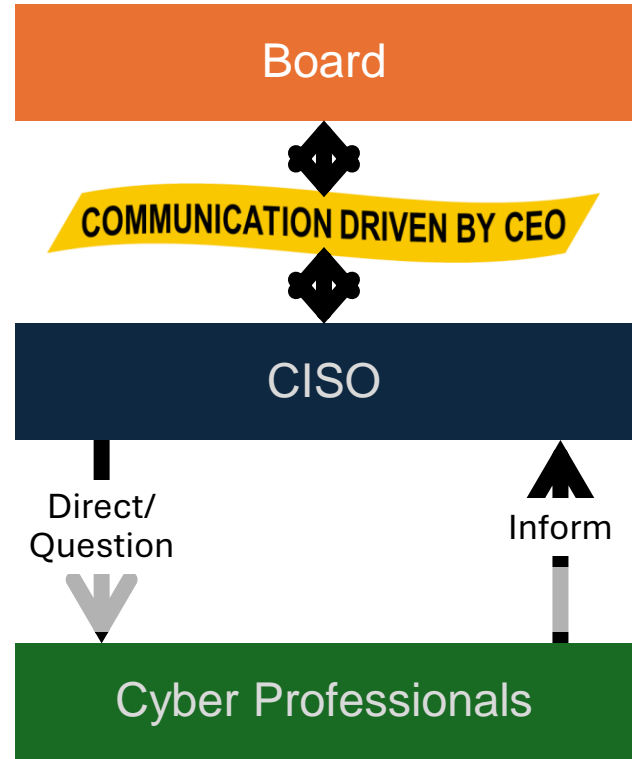


Communication

Typical organisation and leadership structure



CISO up front



Navigating different perspectives and what you need to ask

Board

How do I ask the right questions to inform my decision?

CISO

How do I communicate effectively to the board or CEO?

Cyber Professionals

How do I communicate effectively to my cyber leader?

Communication Strategies: Cyber Professionals to Cyber Leaders

Avoid
technical
jargon

Focus on
relevance

Use data
and
evidence

Propose
solutions

Prioritise
issues

Align with
business
objectives

Communication Strategies: Cyber Leaders to Board

Determine
correct
information level

Lead with
business
rationale,
not cyber

Embrace the
real world

Build trust
by educating

Key Takeaways

Understand what
type of org you are in

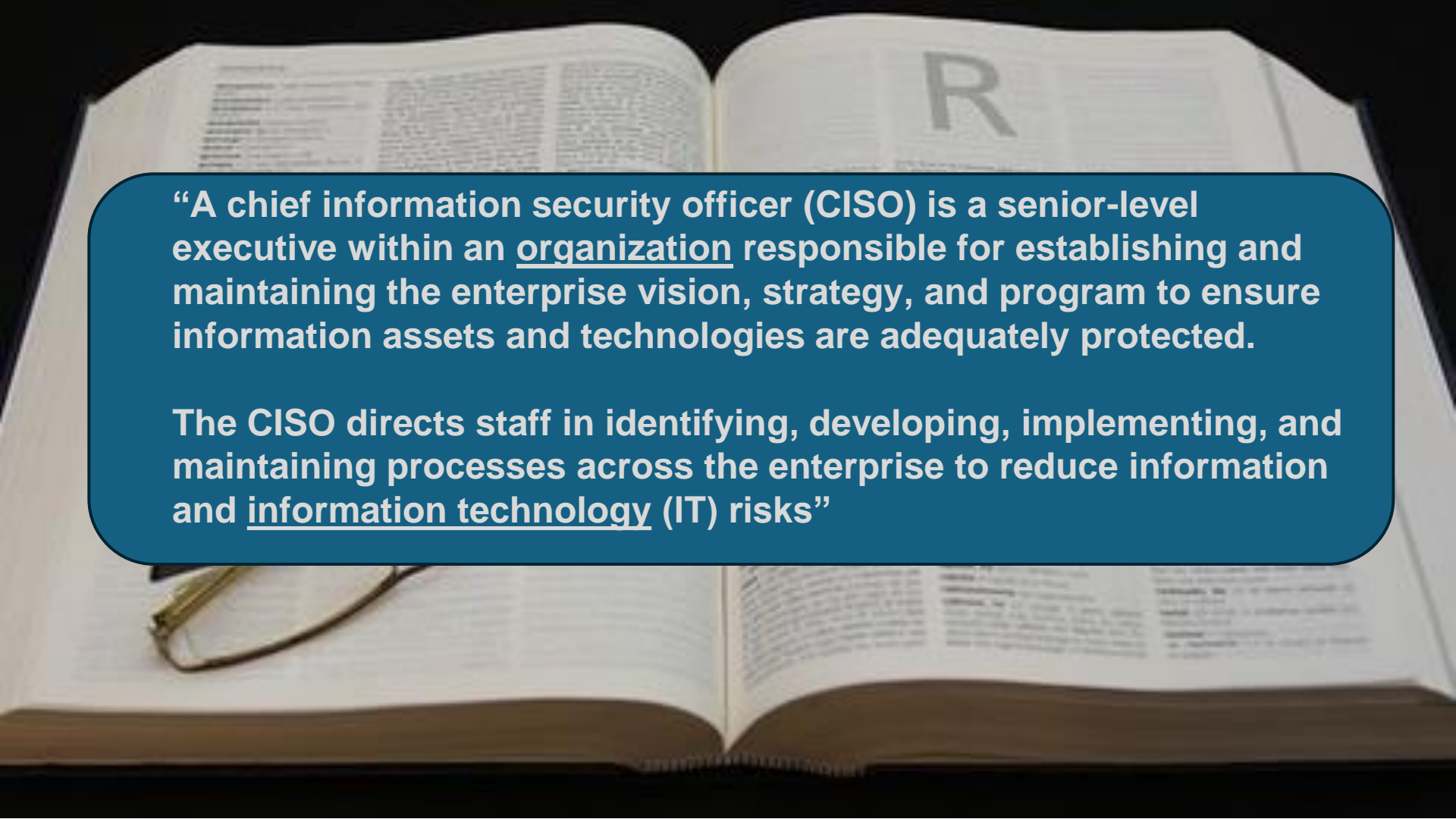
Translate technology
to risk
(And enablement !)

Compliance is not
enough

Build a coalition


Compliance is not
enough

Don't forget the 'day
job'



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A trusted leader that protects the organisation from threats to its information and operation through collaborative risk management.

As part of the wider leadership team enables business to take appropriate risks and embrace new opportunities

Questions ?



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