

# CISO Services Selection Guide

Choose the right CISO support for your organization in 2026 and beyond! Clarify your options, close your biggest gaps, and get the right level of cyber leadership—without over-buying tools or headcount.

Use this guide to see which Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) model fits you best, then book time with Reveal Risk to talk through your situation.

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## Three ways to get cyber leadership

Reveal Risk offers three CISO service models: **vCISO**, **Fractional CISO**, and **Office of the CISO**.

Each gives you senior cyber leadership, governance, and a roadmap—delivered at a level that **matches your size, team, and urgency**.

Unlike managed service providers (MSPs) or tool vendors, we are **tech-agnostic and independent**, focused on your risk and outcomes, not product quotas.

“Their level of expertise, industry experience, and ability to quickly come up to speed add significant value at the major organizations they are helping.

Their **reliability, trust, and delivery** will keep them very active in my current and future cyber programs.”

*-CISO, Pharma*

# vCISO

## Security Team in a Box

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### Best if:

- You don't have a cyber leader and **your program is mostly ad-hoc**.
- **You need foundations, structure, and ongoing support**—not just a one-time assessment.

### May not be the right fit if:

- You already have a strong internal security leader and only need extra hands.
- You're looking for short-term, project-based support.
- You want strategy only, with little involvement in execution.

### You get:

- **End-to-end program leadership:** risk assessment, strategy, roadmap, governance, reporting, and ongoing operational help.
- **Hands-on support** to execute key initiatives (policies, third-party risk, awareness, incident readiness, and more).
- Regular executive updates that translate cyber risk into clear business and board language.

### You avoid:

- Building a roadmap that looks good on paper but never survives day-to-day operational reality.
- **Overpaying** for a full-time CISO before you're ready.
- Relying on **scattered tools** and ad hoc projects with no coherent program.

# Fractional CISO

## Part-time executive, full-time accountability

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### Best if:

- Your CISO departed and you need an external Interim
- You have IT and security staff, but no seasoned cyber leader setting direction.
- You're facing new regulatory pressure, customer demands, or rapid growth.
- You need a named security leader for customers, insurers, or the board, without full-time headcount.

### May not be the right fit if:

- You need hands-on execution or program build-out.
- There's little to no internal security or IT capacity.
- You expect immediate operational lift without supporting structure.

### You get:

- A senior CISO-level practitioner who owns strategy, governance, and representation with your board, regulators, and key customers.
- A prioritized roadmap tied to risk, compliance, and business priorities.
- Coaching and enablement for your internal team so they can execute effectively.

### You avoid:

- Over-hiring a full-time executive before the role is truly justified by scale and complexity.
- Asking IT to "own security" on top of everything else.
- Strategy-by-committee with no single accountable leader.

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# Office of the CISO

## Extra brains (and hands) for your existing leader

### Best if:

- You already have a CISO, CIO, or security leader, but not enough capacity or specialized expertise.
- You're facing a surge of work: new regulations, audits, a merger or acquisition, a recent incident, or critical projects.
- Your CISO needs a trusted "right-hand" team to drive initiatives and clear backlog.

### May not be the right fit if:

- You need help defining strategy or setting direction first.
- There's no clear internal owner to guide or absorb ongoing work.
- Your security program is still very early-stage.

### You get:

- Experienced practitioners who can own or co-own initiatives:
  - roadmapping,
  - governance, risk and compliance (GRC) uplift,
  - third-party risk,
  - cloud security improvements,
  - and more.
- Advisory support plus real execution help—meetings, documentation, rollouts, metrics—not just slideware.
- Flexible scope that can ramp up or down with your program's demands.

### You avoid:

- Treating security execution as a series of disconnected projects rather than a coordinated program.
- Burning out your internal team or stalling key initiatives.
- Hiring permanent staff for needs that may spike and recede.

# Which one sounds most like you?

Most organizations don't neatly fit into one column — but one option usually stands out as the closest match.

Situation / Need	Best Fit	Why
“We don’t have a security leader and need someone to build our program.”	vCISO	You need someone to build, lead, and operate the program, not just advise from the sidelines.
“We have IT/security staff, but no one senior executive deciding what matters most.”	Fractional CISO	Your team can execute; you need strategic direction, governance, and a visible leader.
“We already have a CISO or security leader, but not enough capacity.”	Office of the CISO	Your leader sets direction; you need an experienced team to extend capacity and accelerate delivery.
“We want predictable cost for ongoing cyber leadership.”	vCISO or Fractional CISO	Both give executive-level leadership on a flexible, non-full-time basis.
“We’re facing a short-term surge: regulation, M&A, or a big initiative.”	Office of the CISO	Plug in a seasoned support team that can step into projects quickly and effectively.

# Why organizations pick Reveal Risk

## Independent, tech-agnostic advice

Reveal Risk is solely focused on cybersecurity, so we avoid the competing priorities and conflicts of interest that most MSPs bring. Recommendations are based on your risk, your environment, and what you already own—not *what someone is trying to sell you*.

## Reduce tool sprawl and wasted spend

Instead of suggesting “just one more tool,” Reveal Risk helps **rationalize your stack**: tighten configuration, remove overlap, and free budget for people and process instead of shelfware.

## A bench, not a lone hero

When you hire Reveal Risk for vCISO, Fractional CISO, or Office of the CISO, you’re not betting everything on one individual. You get access to a **team of practitioners**—former CISOs, architects, GRC leaders, and incident responders—who can be pulled in as your needs evolve.

## Practitioner-led and pragmatic

Strategies are led by people who’ve built and run programs in complex, real-world environments. That means **plans that actually work** under your budget, politics, and change fatigue—not just what looks good in a framework diagram.

### Next step: Talk through your options

We can identify your riskiest gaps, walk through which CISO model fits your situation, and outline a right-sized approach that doesn’t over-buy tools or headcount.