



# Book Review: Protecting Your Business From Insider Threats in Seven Effective Steps - Boaz Fischer

- Published on March 3, 2019



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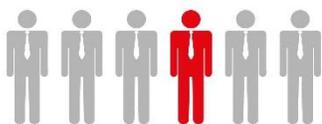
This is a short, no-nonsense book with practical advice for anyone looking at running an Insider Threat Program (ITP). The book is available from Amazon, [here](#). I was fortunate to pick my copy up from the author, the CEO of CommsNet, here in Canberra.

Most books and articles on the topic seem to concentrate on either the mindset and threats of the last Cold War, or they are completely focused on Cyber, to the detriment

of any other source of insider harm. This book does not make that mistake. Mr Fischer has an extensive background in computer security, but that has been incorporated into this book to show the links between information security as well as personnel and Cyber security. I regard this book as being an excellent reference for anyone seeking to establish an Insider Threat Program (ITP). I suggest reading this book in conjunction with Nick Cantrantz's '[Managing the Insider Threat - No Dark Corners](#)' and Julian Talbot & Miles Jakeman's '[Security Risk Management Body of Knowledge](#)' (aka 'THE' SROMBOK).

# PROTECTING YOUR BUSINESS FROM INSIDER THREATS IN SEVEN EFFECTIVE STEPS

WHY YOUR ORGANISATION IS CURRENTLY DEFENCELESS  
AND POSSIBLY COMPROMISED RIGHT NOW BY AN INSIDER ACTOR  
AND THE SEVEN STEPS TO MITIGATE INSIDER THREAT ACTORS



BOAZ FISCHER

The last chapter of the book is an Insider Threat questionnaire which is extensive and asks the right sort of questions to ensure that a competent security practitioner should identify any obvious issues, and many of the less obvious ones as well. Unlike the helpful questionnaires in the SROMBOK, these are focused on identifying your insider threat, rather than all threats and risks.

I have found over the years, that many managers would prefer to simply refuse to believe that insiders pose a threat, and when such a threat is realised, it was 'undetected' and attributable only to the individual who was acting in isolation. I doubt that this has ever truly been the case in any insider threat that has been realised. In the introduction of this book, the graph on page 4 gives a useful

breakdown of sources of insider threat, and is very worthwhile taking a good look at, and considering how that might apply to your organisation.

One of the most telling and thought-provoking chapters of the book is 'You are unable to enforce corporate policies.' While only a short chapter, it details a number of points that could easily be used to identify the potential of [institutional corruption](#) being present in your organisation. While differing from the more common forms of corruption, institutional corruption allows undesirable insider threat behaviours to prosper and ensures that detection and reporting of such corruption is undermined or even actively discouraged. It also highlights that without senior managerial support and buy-in, your ITP is doomed to failure.

Another part of the book I found to be well-worthwhile was 'You are unaware of negative behaviour in the workplace.' This chapter highlights performance management issues, medical and mental health issues that may not be reported to security. It also highlights that there are many personal issues that may not be obvious to co-workers and managers. The vulnerability section of this provides food for thought, especially with regards to the value of an Employee Assistance program. I think this part of the book could be further improved with the addition of advice regarding Whistle-blowing and the value of having a good program that allows employees to address perceived inequities within the organisation.

Overall, this is a useful book that I am going to be keeping on my bookshelf and recommending to others. The book took me about four hours to read from cover to cover. Mr Fischer's writing style is engaging, his case-studies are relevant and the design of the book is both well-thought out and easy to use. This is a terrific book on what could have been a dry and unappealing topic.