What was the motive for Blacknight Solutions to achieve ISO 27001?

Blacknight have built their own data centre, and it was seen as a requirement to provide the assurance our customers expected. We were increasingly getting asked what management systems we had in place by our customers, especially customers with US headquarters. We also needed a framework to ensure we were constantly improving and managing security because of the ever-changing threats in the online world, thus ISO 27001 was ideal for our needs.

How did Certification Europe help during the certification process?

At the initial pre-certification audit, Certification Europe identified some aspects of our security we had overlooked and we were able to consider them in the context of our business. The lead assessor was keen to highlight the need for full management buy-in and the adoption of the principles of security as a management system rather than a check-box exercise in order to get certified; this helped focus the company as a whole.

Before certification, what Information Security management systems were in place within Blacknight Solutions?

We were PCI DSS compliant, so a lot of the requirements were similar to ISO 27001 and consequently we had systems in place already with regard to security of data. ISO broadened that scope to every aspect of our business, not just the online store.

What have Blacknight Solutions learned about their organisation since achieving ISO 27001?

We now adopt a risk management approach to any major projects, and this has helped us deliver some significant projects very successfully.

Where do Blacknight Solutions see the benefits of having ISO 27001?

Our customers have an expectation that we have a management system in place to assess risks associated with their data and mitigate them.

Now certified, how do Blacknight Solutions feel this will benefit them going forward?

This is a continuous improvement exercise which matches our own philosophy, and regular audits help keep us focused on that.

What advice would you give another organisation working towards ISO 27001 certification?

There is a lot of work involved, and it’s useful to get an outside perspective on the security requirements of a business at the outset to properly consider the project and the budget.

Contact Eoin today to discuss how your organisation can implement ISO 27001 in 2017.

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