**Strategic Planning for Information Security:**

**Your name**

**Instructor’s name**

**Course**

**Date of submission**

The information security strategic plan is an essential component that provides direction to the organization in mitigating, transferring, accepting, and avoiding information threats associated with people, processes, or technologies. The strategic plan helps the organization to protect integrity, confidentiality, and availability of information effectively. Strategic planning is also crucial in information security since it allows the organization management, executives, and employees to define goals toward information security and develop efforts toward accomplishing goals. Strategic planning toward information security is essential in reducing the risks of information breaches and attacks in the organization's IT systems. It helps control unauthorized access to the organization's sensitive data and prevents disruption of IT systems networks by hackers or outsiders (Rybin & Grafov, 2020).

The crucial topics to be included in strategic planning for information security include personal security, which is vital in promoting individual information security and protecting the organization's sensitive information. The next topic is physical and environmental security; the topic refers to the security measures used to protect the organization systems, organization buildings, and other vital infrastructure from risks connected to their physical environment. Physical and environmental security are crucial in protecting information. The different important topic is system access control, a security approach that helps regulate access or view the data in the organization's computer system. The technique is essential in controlling unauthorized access to the organization's data. Other important topics are computer and operation management and compliance (Jayanthi, 2017).

The security concerns associated with virtualization include management of oversight and responsibilities. This is a security concern since the virtual server's duties are often left up in the air; hence the organization needs to enhance a secure system to ensure adequate protection of the organization's data. The following security threat is patching, and maintenance; lack of sufficient patching maintaining and securing the virtual servers generates high risks to the organization's IT system (Hiteshi, 2012). The following risks associated with virtualization are visibility and compliance, which can contribute to the spread of viruses to the computer, theft of the data, and provision of services. The other risk is the VM sprawl that contributes to the waste of resources, develops unmonitored servers that enable access to sensitive information, and sets the company at risk of painful cleanups. The following risk is the management of virtual appliances that increase malicious attacks on the organization's sensitive data (Fogarty, 2021).

Strategic planning can help mitigate security risks connected with virtualization in different ways, such as encrypting data kept in the virtual and the cloud servers to make it unreadable to any attackers. Strategic planning helps in developing policies that restrict the storage of VM snapshots and images. Strategic planning will help upgrade the host firmware and BIOS to the latest version that ensures adequate security on the organization's data. A strategic plan can help mitigate risks by implementing reflex security in the organization to protect integrity, confidentiality, and availability of information effectively (Compastié, Badonnel, Festor & He, 2020).

**References**

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**Response:**

I agree with you on the need for strategic planning to promote information security in an organization. Strategic planning is essential in planning the information security goals and the critical measures to be applied to protect the data. Strategic planning allows the organization to be better positioned to mitigate and avoid risks connected to the information. Virtualization creates threats to the organization's IT systems. However, strategic planning provides successful techniques in mitigating risks associated with virtualization.