The ISF Benchmark is a strategic tool that security functions are using to improve their organisations’ security arrangements. This flexible online assessment tool helps organisations to:

- assess their security strategy by clearly setting out core areas of security that require investment and improvement
- evaluate information security policies by identifying which areas require enhancement or fresh content
- assess security performance across a range of different environments by helping to determine which areas of their business require more attention/investment
- compare security strengths and weaknesses against other organisations and help senior management understand how their organisation compares against peers and clients in their industry sector
- understand what good control implementation looks like in their organisation and where this can be replicated in other parts of their business
- measure their own, and their suppliers’, performance against the ISF Standard of Good Practice for Information Security (the Standard); ISO/IEC 27002; COBIT 5 for Information Security; PCI DSS v3.2; the CIS Top 20 Critical Security Controls and the NIST Cybersecurity Framework.
THE ISF BENCHMARK – assess and improve your security arrangements

The Benchmark offers organisations a range of analysis levels to evaluate their security performance and assess risk:

- The Detailed Benchmark – a flexible series of comprehensive questionnaires of ~4000 questions enabling organisations to tailor their assessments to focus on areas of concern that require deep dive investigations, or to conduct thorough assessments of their entire information security arrangements

- The Security Healthcheck – a modular, mid-level questionnaire of ~400 questions providing organisations with a fast and simple overview of their entire information security arrangements

- The Security Radar – a high-level questionnaire of ~40 questions enabling organisations to perform an assessment at speed.

The Benchmark’s functionality also supports organisations with tracking the success of their security improvement programmes, to understand whether their initiatives have resulted in increased control strength, and to identify which areas require further investment.

The Benchmark provides a variety of data export features that can be used to analyse and present data for management reporting, create security improvement programs and to increase visibility of security levels across an organisation.

The Benchmark is updated every two years to align with current and emerging information security topics and to provide organisations with improved user experiences and added value.

Organisations are supported on their Benchmark activities through a range of online help guides, support webinars, which are available on-demand, and a team of experts ready to help answer queries.

Organisations can also purchase short-term, professional support activities to supplement the implementation of the Benchmark.

“One of the best features of the Benchmark is how the peer group comparisons can help senior security practitioners shape and position their security strategy for discussion with business leadership”

– ISF Member, Financial Services sector
WHERE NEXT?

The ISF Benchmark provides organisations with the ability to understand their approach to information security. It does this by helping the security function to:

- assess their organisation’s controls at a high-level, mid-level or detailed level
- compare their performance against peers and clients in their industry sector worldwide
- understand their approach to technologies such as cloud computing and Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)
- reduce the number and impact of major security incidents
- use its powerful reporting dashboard to view results in the following formats – the ISF Standard of Good Practice for Information Security (the Standard); ISO/IEC 27002; COBIT 5 for Information Security; PCI DSS v3.2; the CIS Top 20 Critical Security Controls and the NIST Cybersecurity Framework.

The Benchmark is one of ISF’s most popular tools which can be used as a stand-alone service or together with the Standard and the ISF Information Risk Assessment Methodology 2 (IRAM2).

Consultancy Services from the ISF provide Members and Non-Members with the opportunity to purchase short term, professional support activities to supplement the implementation of ISF products including the Benchmark.

Non-Members interested in implementing the Benchmark or gaining access to ISF’s tools and research should contact steve.durbin@securityforum.org

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ABOUT THE ISF
Founded in 1989, the Information Security Forum (ISF) is an independent, not-for-profit association of leading organisations from around the world. It is dedicated to investigating, clarifying and resolving key issues in cyber, information security and risk management by developing best practice methodologies, processes and solutions that meet the business needs of its Members.

ISF Members benefit from harnessing and sharing in-depth knowledge and practical experience drawn from within their organisations and developed through an extensive research and work programme. The ISF provides a confidential forum and framework, which ensures that Members adopt leading-edge information security strategies and solutions. And by working together, Members avoid the major expenditure required to reach the same goals on their own.

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