

The Rise of the Virtual CISO

As cyber threats grow more complex and regulatory scrutiny intensifies, organizations of all sizes are realizing they need strategic security leadership—but not every company can justify or retain a full-time Chief Information Security Officer. That’s where the Virtual CISO (vCISO) comes in.

A vCISO provides experienced, high-level cybersecurity leadership on a flexible basis. They bring the same strategic vision and risk expertise as a full-time CISO, but with greater cost efficiency. The “CISO” name may sound intimidating, but vCISO services are built to scale. Whether your organization is preparing for an audit, building out a new program, or facing mounting third-party requirements, a vCISO can guide the way—without the overhead.

Why Choose Compass for Your vCISO?

At Compass IT Compliance, our vCISO offering is not just another outsourced service—it’s a true extension of your team. You’ll be matched with a dedicated, named vCISO who is onboarded into your environment just like an internal hire. That individual is backed by a full team of experts across cybersecurity, compliance, privacy, and technical domains.

Since 2010, organizations across industries have trusted Compass to deliver experienced, practical security leadership. Unlike other models, you’re never on your own.

The Compass vCISO Advantage



Hands-on leader fully immersed in your team



All-inclusive support with clear pricing



Broad expertise across industries & frameworks



Access to vetted tools & discounts



Flexible model shaped to your priorities



Near-100% client renewal rate




“This is the 2nd company I’ve worked at where I’ve recommended that we partner with Compass to fulfill the role of the virtual ISO... The Compass professionals we’ve partnered with genuinely care about our team members & organization, & have helped GLCU grow in a secure & efficient manner.”

Chief Operations Officer
Great Lakes Credit Union



Customized vCISO Support Aligned to Your Needs

Our vCISOs deliver hands-on, strategic, and operational support across a broad spectrum of cybersecurity and compliance needs. Acting as an extension of your leadership team, they provide guidance tailored to your risk profile, regulatory environment, and organizational goals. While each engagement is customized, areas of focus typically include but are not limited to:

 <p>Security Program Design & Oversight: Build and manage a security strategy aligned to your business.</p>	 <p>Risk Management: Identify, prioritize, and mitigate risks with ongoing assessment and reporting.</p>	 <p>Compliance & Framework Alignment: Align with standards like PCI, NIST, SOC 2, HIPAA, CMMC, and more.</p>
 <p>Policy & Procedure Development: Draft and maintain security policies and procedures.</p>	 <p>Vulnerability Management: Guide remediation and improve your vulnerability management process.</p>	 <p>Incident Response & Business Continuity: Develop and test IR and continuity plans, including tabletop exercises.</p>
 <p>Executive & Board Reporting: Translate technical risk into actionable business insights.</p>	 <p>Training & Phishing Simulations: Deliver awareness training and manage phishing tests.</p>	 <p>Vendor Management: Strengthen third-party risk oversight and vendor security reviews.</p>
 <p>Questionnaire Responses: Support due diligence and security questionnaire responses.</p>	 <p>Data Insights: Classify and analyze data to uncover risks and improve visibility.</p>	 <p>Ongoing Program Maturity: Monitor progress and evolve your security program over time.</p>

Flexible. Scalable. Tailored to You.

Every organization faces different security challenges, levels of maturity, and compliance demands. That's why our vCISO service is built to flex around your specific needs—whether you require strategic leadership, operational execution, or both. We'll help you build a right-sized program aligned with your goals, resources, and risk appetite. Engagements can be scaled up or down over time and can also be tailored to serve in adjacent roles such as a Virtual Privacy Officer (vPO) or Virtual Compliance Officer (vCO) depending on your environment. With Compass, you're not locked into a rigid model—you get trusted security leadership, on your terms.

Contact us today to learn how a Compass vCISO can help strengthen and scale your security program.