

MITRE Security Enabler Interactive Awareness Session

This 90-minute, in-person, facilitated awareness session for security practitioners is designed to strengthen how an organization's security functions enables mission delivery in practice within government and critical infrastructure industry organizations. The session draws on recent applied research conducted for the Department of War, grounded in an environmental scan of more than 100 scientific articles on workplace behavior, innovation, and security-relevant organizational dynamics. Findings will be translated for a specific government and critical infrastructure industry organization, focusing on practical actions security practitioners can take to identify new opportunities, reduce unnecessary friction, and apply security policy in ways that manage risk and advance mission goals.

The session centers on how an organization's security practitioners can strengthen and expand security-enabling practices. Through practical examples and discussion, the organization's security practitioners will explore ways to recognize enabling opportunities, engage stakeholders, communicate concerns constructively, and support mission needs while maintaining appropriate security safeguards. A guiding question throughout the session is especially relevant in real environments: when security policy, process, or precedent seem like obstacles to action, **"how do we enable this action securely here at our organization?"**

The MITRE Security Enabler Interactive Awareness Session introduces the methodology and findings from applied behavioral science research on the organizational dynamics, implementation challenges, and practitioner behaviors that can support or hinder security enablement. Rather than focusing only on policy compliance, the session discusses how security practitioners can help translate policy and procedures into effective implementation at an organization. The session is organized around a set of empirically-grounded concepts associated with adaptive, mission-supporting security implementation:



Innovative Work Behavior: identifying, generating, championing, and implementing useful improvements in security practice



Constructive Voice Behavior: raising concerns, surfacing ideas, and influencing change in ways that support organizational objectives



Advice-Seeking and Professional Networks: using collaboration, peer insight, and cross-functional engagement to improve outcomes



Intrinsic Motivation: reinforcing initiative, ownership, and commitment to solving hard security problems



Red Tape and Implementation Friction: understanding how perceptions of burdensome, vague, rigid, or overly complex processes can shape how security is carried out in practice

The organization's security practitioner participants will leave with knowledge on what it takes to be a *security enabler*, practical examples relevant to day-to-day implementation challenges, and research-informed ways to strengthen stakeholder engagement, information sharing, and mission support while maintaining appropriate safeguards. Designed for the broader security practitioner community, the session serves as a professional development opportunity to build common language, encourage practical discussion, and support more effective translation of policy into operational practice.

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