

DefenseStorm Tabletops

Tabletop exercises are valuable for financial institutions (FI) striving to maintain operational resilience and regulatory compliance. By regularly conducting them, FIs can ensure that they are well-prepared to navigate the complexities and uncertainties of the financial landscape.

DefenseStorm Tabletops are simulation exercises used to test and improve the preparedness and response capabilities of an organization to various scenarios. The Tabletop exercises involve key personnel from the DefenseStorm and the FI's team who come together to role-play and discuss their responses to hypothetical scenarios. These exercises help identify potential weaknesses in the institution's response plans, enhance communication and coordination among departments, and ensure that all participants are familiar with their roles and responsibilities in a crisis.

Components of Tabletop Exercises

- Scoping the exercise [who will participate, type of crisis, etc]
- Fine-tuning the scenario
- Building the deck
- Conducting the exercise and facilitating the discussion
- Editing and delivering the report [After-Action Report (AAR) and a remediation plan provided] identifying areas of strength and areas for improvement is provided to the customer.

Tabletop exercises for FIs typically involve a variety of realistic scenarios designed to test the organization's preparedness and response capabilities. These exercises help identify gaps in existing plans, improve coordination among teams, and enhance overall preparedness for real-world events.

These scenarios may include:

- **Cybersecurity Incidents:** Simulating attacks such as phishing, ransomware, data breaches, to assess the institution's ability to detect, respond to, and recover from cyber threats.
- **Internal Threats:** Assessing the response to insider threats, including fraud, embezzlement, or sabotage, to safeguard the institution's assets and reputation

KEY OBJECTIVES

- **Gaps:** Areas to improve their incident response plan
- **Response Assessment:** Evaluating the current response strategies and their effectiveness.
- **Coordination and Communication:** Ensuring seamless interaction and information flow among internal and external stakeholders.
- **Policy and Procedure Validation:** Testing and refining existing policies and procedures to enhance preparedness.
- **Training and Awareness:** Educating employees and stakeholders on their roles and responsibilities during a crisis.