



GUIDE

Unlocking Value: **Calculating the ROI of Your Secure Coding Training Program**



As the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), you understand that cybersecurity is not a luxury but an absolute necessity in today's digital landscape. The relentless barrage of cyber threats demands a proactive approach, and one of the most strategic investments you can make is in a secure coding training program. But how do you convince your stakeholders that this investment is not just wise but financially sound? The answer lies in calculating the Return on Investment (ROI) of your secure coding training program.

The Challenge at Hand

Modern organizations have excelled at detecting security issues at scale. However, the discovery of vulnerabilities is just the tip of the iceberg; addressing these vulnerabilities is equally, if not more, crucial.

Developers often lack the knowledge and expertise required to remediate vulnerabilities effectively, and this knowledge gap can result in the introduction of new vulnerabilities during the development process.

This cycle is not sustainable nor cost-effective. When vulnerabilities are introduced, they inevitably need to be remediated, consuming valuable time and resources that could have been channeled into innovating and developing value-adding functionalities.

Metrics that Matter

To gauge the effectiveness of a secure coding training program, organizations need to employ relevant metrics that reflect tangible, positive, real-world impacts.

Three key metrics stand out as crucial indicators:

- **Reduced Vulnerabilities:**

By equipping your development team with the knowledge and skills needed for them to continuously code in a secure manner, you can substantially reduce the number of new vulnerabilities introduced into your software during the development process. This value can be calculated based on the number of security tickets tracked by Vulnerability Management.

- **Faster Remediation:**

A well-trained team can respond swiftly and effectively to identified security issues, significantly reducing the time it takes to remediate vulnerabilities. This figure can be easily derived on engineer hours spent on vulnerability remediation tasks tracked on Jira or Azure Boards.

- **Productivity Boost:**

Perhaps the most enticing benefit is freeing up your developers' time. With less time spent on security rework, they can channel their efforts into developing new features and functionality, creating real value for your organization. You can calculate this metric from the hours spent across all security rework tasks tracked on Jira or Azure Boards.

Calculating the Return on Investment

To convince your stakeholders, you need to focus on tangible, quantifiable metrics that **showcase the financial impact of your secure coding training program:**

1. Reduction in New Vulnerabilities

It's not just about securing your software—it's about saving money. SecureFlag's statistics show that, on average, organizations experience a **21% reduction in new vulnerabilities** within the first 12 months of implementing a secure coding program. This reduction translates directly into cost savings by preventing potential breaches, data loss, and the expenses associated with fixing security issues post-launch.

2. Quicker Remediation

Every day a security vulnerability remains unresolved is a day of heightened risk. SecureFlag's data reveals that organizations typically achieve an impressive 27% reduction in the time it takes developers to remediate a vulnerability in the first 12 months of training. This efficiency not only reduces the window of exposure to threats but also minimizes the costs associated with extended security retests.

3. Reduction in Security Rework

The most compelling aspect of ROI is the direct impact on your bottom line. A 24% reduction in the time developers spend on security rework, as reported by SecureFlag's customers, directly translates into cost savings. This previously unproductive time can now be redirected towards value-generating activities, effectively increasing the productivity of your development team.

Calculating the Return on Investment



Number of security tickets

Identified for teams participating in the secure coding program.



Rework due to security tickets

Based on time allocated in sprints for teams participating in the program.



Time to fix security tickets

For teams participating in the secure coding program.

To calculate the ROI of your secure coding training program, compare the cost of the training program – including platform costs and the time developers invest in training – with the cost savings resulting from the reduction in security issues, remediation time and overall time spent on security rework.

It's a straightforward equation: the greater the reduction in vulnerabilities and time spent on remediation, the more you can harness such unproductive time to create new value for the company and, thus, the higher your ROI.



The Convincing Bottom Line

Investing in a secure coding training program isn't just about security; it's about sound financial management. By reducing vulnerabilities, speeding up remediation, and freeing up valuable developer time, you're not just safeguarding your organization; you're unlocking tangible cost savings and increasing productivity.

In a world where cybersecurity breaches can lead to catastrophic financial losses and damage to reputation, the ROI of a secure coding training program is undeniable. It's an investment that not only strengthens your security posture but also contributes directly to your organization's financial well-being.

As CISO, your seat and influence at the table have never been more prominent;

You have the opportunity to lead the charge towards a more secure and financially sound future for your organization.

The ROI speaks for itself — investing in a secure coding training program isn't just a strategic move — it's an essential one.



Contact us to get started

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