



Use of this framework

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The Integrated Security-Accessibility Framework

Fixing this governance gap requires a new framework that positions accessibility as a security fundamental rather than a compliance afterthought:

1. Embed accessibility criteria in security risk assessments. Every security risk assessment should explicitly evaluate accessibility-related vulnerabilities. Organisations incorporating accessibility criteria in risk assessments may identify more potential vulnerabilities before implementation compared to those using traditional approaches.
2. Integrate accessibility testing into security testing. Penetration testing, vulnerability scanning, and security audits must include accessibility evaluation components. Security testing programmes that include accessibility components may identify more exploitable vulnerabilities compared to standard approaches, particularly in user-facing controls.
3. Make security teams accountable for accessibility outcomes. Security performance metrics should include accessibility-related incident metrics. When security teams have explicit accessibility KPIs, security-related accessibility incidents may decrease over time.
4. Include accessibility expertise on security teams. Security functions need dedicated accessibility specialists with security authority. Security teams with embedded accessibility expertise may experience fewer incidents related to user workarounds compared to those without such expertise
5. Elevate accessibility to board-level security reporting. Accessibility metrics should appear alongside other security KPIs in executive dashboards. Organisations reporting accessibility metrics at board level may allocate more resources to addressing accessibility-related security vulnerabilities.

This approach isn't revolutionary; it's simply recognising reality. Security that isn't accessible isn't secure. Your governance framework needs to reflect this fundamental truth.