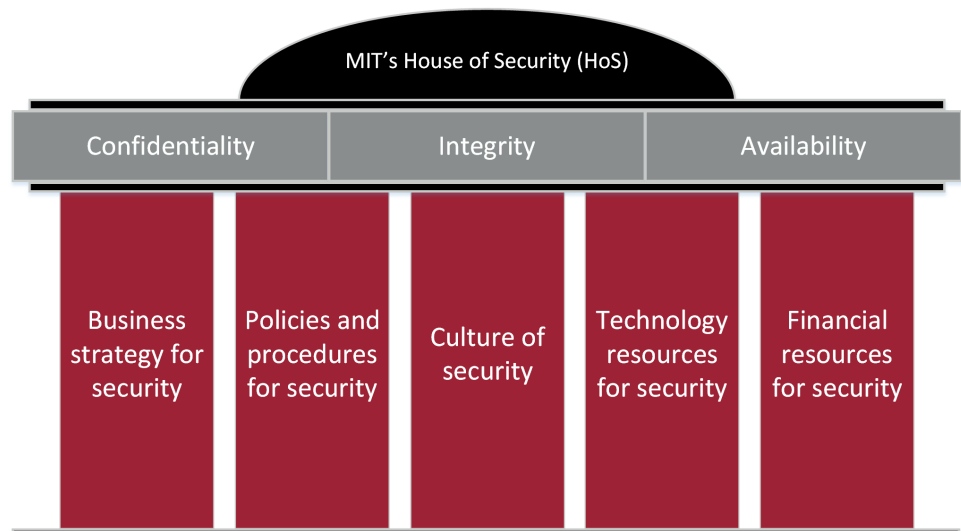*Perception is reality. Behavior is based on what people perceive, more than on what is really happening.*

Cybersecurity at MIT Sloan brings together thought leaders from industry, academia and government with MIT faculty, researchers and students to address strategy, management, governance and organization of cybersecurity of critical infrastructure using an interdisciplinary approach.

Closing the Gap Between Cybersecurity Perception and Reality

Perception of cybersecurity is at the heart of how an organization manages risks because behavior is based on what is perceived. Research conducted by Cybersecurity at MIT Sloan studies organizational constructs such as accessibility, integrity, security policies, culture, etc. to develop a picture of the perception of cybersecurity. This research has been used to assess different organizations as well as different groups within an organization. For example, in one study, information technology professionals were found to have a different perception of cybersecurity than operational technology professionals within a company. Furthermore, when applied to different levels of management, executives were found to have different cybersecurity concerns than lower level managers. The next question is why—why are these perceptions different?

IMPACT: Understanding the differences in perception can assist leaders in developing actions that reduce cyber security risk and increase overall security of their infrastructure.

MIT's House of Security (HoS)

Confidentiality	Integrity	Availability
Business strategy for security	Policies and procedures for security / Culture of security	Technology resources for security / Financial resources for security