

## Gratitude: 1 Simple Leadership Act

“Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.” – Voltaire

Are one of your goals to build a workplace culture where cybersecurity efforts are a priority? Then you want to build a company where people feel valued.

Perhaps you are thinking, what does cybersecurity culture have to do with people feeling appreciated? Have you considered the scale and force of gratitude? Not a new cybersecurity tool, but the expression of authentic gratitude.

Consider this...it is well known that great leaders foster a sense of trustworthiness. They communicate clearly on what is necessary to reach a goal. A great leader is confident, motivational, and empowering. But did you know that great leaders also express gratitude? It is not a sign of weakness, but on the contrary, it is a sign of strength. There is power and value in simple acts of appreciation. A good old-fashioned pat on the back or a sincere thank you does wonders for morale.

When it comes to cybersecurity, the human aspect is often overlooked. However, when people feel important, feel they have contributed to reaching a goal, and feel appreciated, they will go above and beyond to meet the mission. And the mission may include surpassing your cybersecurity goals.

Is it fair to say that part of a leader’s job is to let others know they are valued? We at CultureSec believes this is a significant part of a leader’s role and studies show appreciation in the workplace contributes to improved performance<sup>1</sup>. Taking a moment to genuinely acknowledge someone’s efforts begins to foster a culture where people realize their significance. When people know just how important they are, they often rise to meet set forth expectations.

A leader’s journey toward expressive gratitude is inclusive, diverse, deep, and profound. It allows others to see the value in themselves and in others – sort of a gratuitous reciprocal effect! Nice, huh?

When people know they are genuinely valued, reaching your cybersecurity goals will become that much easier. Cybersecurity is people. One simple act that improves a cybersecurity culture is gratitude...and gratitude is a choice.

*Thank you,*

[-The CultureSec Team](#)

One question – do you think expressing gratitude is important for leaders?

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1. McCullough, M.E., et al., Is gratitude a moral affect? Psychological Bulletin, 2001. 127(2): p. 24