



AWARD NOMINATIONS FAQ

What do the CSO50 awards recognize?

The CSO50 Awards recognize 50 organizations (and the people within them) for their security project or initiative that demonstrates outstanding business value and thought leadership.

Did your organization:

- Rewrite and re-deploy its overall security strategy?
- Create new business processes to better manage your organization's risk posture?
- Leverage advancements in security technology?
- Partner with other groups in your organization to improve security?
- Create innovative ways to detect and mitigate threats?

These are just a few examples of possible nominations, and this is your opportunity to tell your peers about the risk and security innovations that led the way to greater success for your organization.

To be selected, nominations must not only show that they have executed their project well, but that they have done so in uncommon, innovative ways: pioneering a new technology, applying a familiar technology to a new purpose, setting the bar higher for their organization's security objectives. And they must demonstrate business value, not just the benefits of better security and risk management programs.

Who nominates?

The CSO50 program is open to entries from internal business, security and PR stakeholders as well as vendors and their PR companies who are nominating customers. If you are a third party creating a nomination, you must agree to notify the nominated organization before submitting the nomination.

Note: The CSO50 Award is not awarded to technology vendors for their products, however, we will consider nominations for technology-driven services that leverage a company's non-technology core competency — as long as the service is a natural extension of the company's core business. For example, a nomination from a financial institution would be considered for offering additional identity theft protection as part of a revenue-generating initiative. If you have questions about the eligibility of your project/initiative for the CSO50 awards, please contact awards@cio.com

Does the nominated organization need to be aware of their nomination?

CSO requires that the nominated company MUST be made aware that they are being nominated before submitting the nomination. If you are a security vendor who would like to nominate a customer for a CSO50 Award, we strongly recommend you to enlist the CSO or another security manager within the organization you wish to nominate to submit the nomination.

Is there a fee to nominate?

There is no cost to nominate. You may nominate multiple projects or initiatives for a single company for consideration.



How does CSO judge the CSO50 awards?

Working with judges including security experts, academics and CSOs, the CSO50 honorees will be selected by the CSO editorial team based on information submitted in this online nomination. Since we are unable to review any additional materials beyond information submitted in the nomination form, nominators are encouraged to include any information about their project or initiative that they would like the judges to consider in their answers to the questions on the application.

Each entry will be judged based on how it compares with all other entries submitted. Honorees selected for the final winner list are not ranked on that list.

Judging Criteria

To be selected for a CSO50 Award, your nominated project or initiative must demonstrate excellence in:

Innovation: The extent to which your organization used security in a new way or enabled new ways of improving the organization's security and risk posture.

Business results and value: The measurable impact, backed up by supporting data that your project has had on your organization's business.

Judging Process

Each nomination will be read by members of the CSO50 judging panel. Final selections will be confirmed by CSO editors. All scores will be kept confidential, will not be released publicly, and won't be discussed with any individual submitters.

How to increase your chances of winning

Nominations that focus on the business goals and results of the project and provide detailed answers to all questions have a better chance of winning. The most successful applications are written by the CSO or another business-oriented security or risk manager, with input from both business stakeholders and technical staff. If you are a security vendor who would like to nominate a customer for a CSO50 Award, we strongly recommend you to enlist the CSO or another security manager within the organization you wish to nominate to submit the nomination.

To win a CSO50 Award, submitters must provide data and examples that support their claims of innovation and business value. For example, it is not enough to tell us that an identity management system reduced the volume of compromised credentials. You must also provide metrics that illustrate your claim. Winning applications should also include narrative examples or anecdotes that illustrate the results of your project, such as descriptions of how new processes create efficiency, how employees embrace security more widely, or the impact the project has had on your organization's risk profile.

How we use your information

The information you provide in your CSO50 nomination will be used by CSO for judging the awards and for online articles or other publicity relating to the CSO50 Awards. Application information will be used for editorial and CSO50 conference purposes only, with the exception of contact information and vendor information, which may be used to market CSO content and programs.

If you have information about your project (such as internal metrics) that you would prefer not be published, but which you would like us to consider as part of your application, please note this in the text box where the information appears or where asked to do so specifically in the nomination form. **Information not labeled in this way will be considered by CSO editors to be publishable.**



Deadlines and Expectations

For the most up-to-date deadlines, please visit our website csoconference.com/awards

If your company is selected as a CSO50 award winner, a member of the nominated company will need to formally acknowledge and accept the award within one week of receiving the notification via the award acceptance portal. If you do not complete this step, you will forfeit your award and the CSO editors will select another winner from the pool of finalists.

Many of the winning projects will be invited to present at the CSO50 Conference + Awards. Selected winners will receive the option to present after final winning notifications have been made.

Additionally, all winning teams are invited to attend the conference, and receive their award during the CSO50 Awards dinner.

Nomination overview and instructions

Visit csoconference.com/awards to download a .pdf copy of the CSO50 awards nomination questionnaire to view all questions in their entirety. (Please note that nominations must be completed online.)

There are three parts to the nomination questionnaire you will be completing:

- Nominee non-technology company/organization information: Here we are asking for basic information about the organization you are nominating
- Nominated project: This part includes questions (in multiple-choice, short-answer and essay formats) about the nominated project or initiative
- The project's champions: Here we are requesting contact information for those who championed the project or initiative

You can leave the nomination website and return as many times as necessary to complete the nomination form by bookmarking the page in your Web browser or clicking on the link in your confirmation email. Before you leave the application, remember to click the "Save" button at the bottom of the form. Do not click the "Submit" button until your application is complete.

Before completing information about your nominated project or initiative, we recommend that you discuss your responses with knowledgeable people within your organization, such as the key security managers and business-unit leaders who are major players in the project or initiative you are describing in the application. Be aware that once you have clicked on the "Submit" button, you will not be able to revise your answers.

Contact information

For questions regarding the CSO50 Awards or the nomination process, please email your questions awards@cio.com