If you need to implement cybersecurity and SOC services, you have 3 primary options:

1. A Managed Security Services Provider (MSSP)
2. A Managed IT Services Provider (MSP) that provides security services
3. An in-house solution, planned and implemented by your IT Department

Within those categories, you’ll find a wide range of potential solutions and costs, but here is a high-level look at the common differences between the three:

**MSSP**

**PEOPLE**

Dedicated in-house security professionals. Teams vary in size from less than 10 to hundreds.

**TOOLS & TECH**

Depending on services offered, MSSPs are likely to have designed and integrated proprietary and vendor solutions to provide a complete all-in-one solution. More likely to be operational 24x7.

**RISKS & BENEFITS**

Generally low risk due to flexibility and team depth of expertise; depends on contract and best fit to your unique needs.

**COST**

Flat, monthly rate; often less than one in-house cybersecurity professional.

**IN-HOUSE**

**PEOPLE**

You own 100% responsibility for recruitment, training, and retention of security staff in a highly competitive job market.

**TOOLS & TECH**

A number of vendor solutions deployed and leveraged by your in-house team. Specialized services like pen tests will likely need to be outsourced to allow for unbiased assessments.

**RISKS & BENEFITS**

Risks: Slow adaptations to a fast-paced industry; exponentially increases overhead costs.

Benefits: High integration with your company culture and conducive to development of future management.

**COST**

$70k-$500k+ per year for staff plus vendor solutions and SOC operating costs.

**MSP**

**PEOPLE**

Provides partially or fully dedicated security staff. Many MSPs outsource SOC services to MSSPs.

**TOOLS & TECH**

Deploys one or more vendor solutions to your network and either own or outsource log analysis and incident response. Researching vendors used before contract is signed can be beneficial.

**RISKS & BENEFITS**

Risks: Lower accountability due to outsourcing; potential for out-of-the box (not customizable) vendor solutions.

Benefits: Responsible for talent acquisition and retention; single contract for IT and security.

**COST**

Flat monthly rate; may be subject to additional fees related to log volume overages or additional services/tools.