

Compliance and InfoSecurity - Applying the Right Resources

There is an old adage that states that "compliance does not equal security." That said, compliance can still act as a positive 'lever' to move towards a better security posture. Maintaining ongoing compliance diligence is a fine way to motivate a credit union to be more secure throughout their organization. Fortunately, credit unions that follow good overall business practices with well documented policies and procedures are well positioned to deal with internal auditors, external examiners and third party security assessments.

While regulations such as PCI-DSS may be somewhat onerous and overly complicated, they exist for a very good reason - they represent a broad set of good security practices. Security and compliance need not be at odds, in fact, compliance activities can be viewed as necessary steps towards a more secure infrastructure. Sensible compliance efforts can serve as a platform for building a more secure credit union.

At Anitian Enterprise Security, we don't believe that security should disable the business. Quite the opposite, we deliver security solutions that are both practical and closely aligned to business needs and objectives. In our experience, IT staff are mostly event driven and constantly in response mode. Our practical analysis helps credit union IT Departments overcome this reactionary environment to see the big picture and craft ways to maximize limited security budgets. In action, our analysts routinely advise credit union executives on ways to effectively govern their IT resources and increase security.

For regular credit union employees, our goal is to help them see the benefits of security in a transparent and collaborative manner. Security begins and ends with people and their relationship with the organization, technology and processes. As such, we strive to address four key areas in our consultations: technology, processes, culture, and psychology. Good security must be simultaneously overt and transparent. That is, everybody knows it is there and what it can do, but they don't have to struggle with it. Since 1995, we delivered guidance and solutions that conform to this challenging objective.

For Anitian, sensationalism and FUD (fear, uncertainty and doubt) are counterproductive to security, even though the media and many security firms would have you think otherwise. Trust and credibility form the foundations of security, and so we work hard to offer objective, qualified opinions and advice that solve problems in a reasoned, practical manner. Credit unions that follow proven, practical security fundamentals of layered security will have a more robust business infrastructure that can handle growth and change with greater assurance.

Ultimately, effective information security is attainable. Through diligent application of sound controls, good practices, reliable operations and collaborative engagement with people, credit unions of all sizes have the power to adequately and affordably protect themselves.

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is the founder and President of Anitian Enterprise Security and its parent company Anitian Corporation. Mr. Plato

founded Anitian in 1995 after a successful career as a software engineer, database developer, and technical writer. Mr. Plato has overseen and actively participated in thousands of security projects including security & risk assessment, penetration testing, incident response, PCI compliance and technology integration. Mr. Plato routinely advises CIOs, CISOs, and other executives on matters of IT security and governance. Mr. Plato is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Certified Information Security Manager (CISM), Qualified Security Assessor (QSA) for PCI compliance and holds numerous other technical and industry certifications. Mr. Plato serves as a member of numerous local and international security groups, including the Information Systems Security Association (ISSA). Mr. Plato holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Arizona in English and resides in Portland.

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