

Securing the Credit Union from the Inside to the Outside

Considering the statistics that I continue reading about insider threat, it is pretty safe to say that credit unions have focused too much on the perimeter and not enough on the insider threat. After all, the best security, perimeter or otherwise, cannot protect you from the person who holds the keys. Smaller CUs are particularly vulnerable to this type of issue, simply because they do not have enough people, and therefore the same person ends up covering too many roles and having all the information and responsibility. In large CUs it is easier to spread authorizations and responsibilities in such a way that no one single person has too much access or too much power. This helps prevent or at least minimize the risk of insider threats. But in smaller CUs this may not be feasible, and the issue becomes more real.

It is important to note that network security and data security need to be approached together but separately, as they are separate issues. Network security should guarantee that outsiders are kept out of your network; data security should guarantee that insiders do not have the possibility of getting more than they should.

For security to be ubiquitous it needs to be approached as a business issue and as a process; any time an organization approaches security only from a 'hardware' stand point, the overall security posture does not increase. Good processes, well thought out procedures, risk analysis, well configured permissions, are all part of an overall security strategy. And this is likely the core term - security must be approached as a strategy, and the perimeter security needs to be a part of it, but not the entirety of it.

To take on the ever-changing threats from malware, we developed the Z-Scan, an ultra high speed zero day anti-malware system, which has just won the PC3 Corporate Choice Award for technology innovation. It is the first real time antivirus system that protects our customers from unknown threats, from malware that no one has seen before, and for which signatures are not yet available.

From a perimeter standpoint the worst thing about today's threats is their sheer number. We are seeing a new threat every 10 seconds or less! This is a staggering figure, and one that has caused panic among basically all the AV providers, globally. The traditional way of creating signatures no longer works for the way threats are being delivered. We see a new piece of malware appear on the horizon, unleash the attack, and disappear within hours. A traditional AV signature takes several hours to be created, tested, and deployed. By the time this happens, it is too late; the attack has already come and passed. And all that is left to do is collect the pieces and tediously clear the workstations if it is still possible.

With the new Z-scan, Network Box approaches the problem in a totally revolutionary way, creating signatures within literally seconds of when a new threat is seen in the wild. Our average in 2 months of operation has been 30 seconds, with records down to 3 seconds. With this system, our customers are 'immediately' protected against new malware, as soon as it is released. When considering that this is by far the worst issue all customers are facing in perimeter protection, we expect this to be a great improvement in protection.

Pierluigi Stella CTO



Pierluigi Stella
is CTO of Network Box
USA, Inc. Pierluigi worked
for 15 years at IBM, accu-
mulating international

experience primarily in the oil and manufacturing sectors. With a sterling track record of successfully accomplished projects, an extensive technical know-how, and six years as head of both the technical as well as customer service divisions of Network Box USA, Pierluigi has been helping financial institutions and health care providers develop their security policies, and has accumulated extensive experience and knowledge of security issues. He is one of the founders of Network Box USA. Pierluigi graduated magna cum laudae with a Masters in Electrical Engineering and has received numerous industry recognitions for notable career achievements including two Excellence Awards for innovative design.

Contact Info

www.networkboxusa.com