

Securing the Credit Union from the Inside to the Outside

It is pretty safe to say that credit unions have focused too much on the perimeter and not enough on the insider threat, but the tide is shifting and credit unions in general seem to have a much more holistic view of security. It's critical that credit unions recognize all ingress and egress points and take appropriate action necessary to protect Personally Identifiable Information and other sensitive data. The perimeter is disappearing, and credit unions are beginning to recognize that. Look for smart phones to be the next target for hackers.

Without a doubt a comprehensive security assessment performed by a trusted vendor with substantial credit union experience is one of the best ways to help make security ubiquitous throughout the network, not just at the perimeter. However, this is the easy part and just a first step. The tough part is trying to implement a security program designed around the assessment findings and getting buy-in from upper management and the Board of Directors. Because the threats are changing all of the time and malware is constantly evolving, consistency in security testing is critical. "One and done" is completely unacceptable and simply won't cut it any longer.

In order for credit unions to minimize security threats and get a handle on the wide variety of attacks that they face, I think it's critical for their partners to understand the credit union business, and we do. At S1 Defense, we have partnered with vendors such as IBM, Cisco, and ZixCorp that provide market-leading security products that, when layered appropriately, provide the ultimate in security at an affordable price point. Additionally, technology alone won't promote security. The engineering required to properly secure sensitive financial data requires a level of detail that is not necessarily found in other IT fields.

At S1 Defense, our people make the difference. We have assembled a team of professionals with the training, skills, and technology needed to help protect financial institutions from internal and external threats. We can help with all manner of Security Assessments: Internal, External and Comprehensive. To help battle the growing threats from phishing, we offer phishing alerts, and both phishing and vishing intervention. Finally, we can deliver a full range of managed security services: Logging, Alerting, Reporting; End-Point Protection; HTTPS Inspection; E-mail Management; AntiVirus; and AntiSpam. The bottom line is that our knowledge, dedication, and focus on customer service help ensure our clients receive quality security solutions with responsive technical support.

Bruce C. Smalley
VP and Managing Director



Bruce C. Smalley joined PMSC's S1 Defense team in 2006. He became Director in 2007 and was

later promoted to VP. Prior to joining S1 Defense, he was the CIO and a managing partner of Grigg & Allaire in Columbia, SC. Prior to his position with Grigg & Allaire, Bruce held senior technical and managerial positions with Edens & Avant and Universal Avionics Corporation. Bruce holds a BS degree in Management Science from the University of South Carolina and a BBA degree from Georgia Southern University. Mr. Smalley served as a Richland County Sheriff's Department narcotics investigator and City of Columbia Police officer in the early and mid-1990. Bruce is an active member in the SC chapter of the FBI's Infragard program and is active on the credit union information security speaking circuit. He has written and published over 60 security articles.

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