

CU SECURITY - ESTABLISHING A PROACTIVE APPROACH

Well thought out policies are always a good security starting point for credit unions. They need to define everything from password strengths to how to handle dormant accounts and much more. But just as important as developing comprehensive security policies is getting employee agreement and buy-in on those policies. Senior management must communicate clearly to the staff reasons why their policies are in place, and take the time to explain the overall importance of security to the credit union.

It is a fact that credit union networks are getting larger and more complex. The IT staff not only has to deal with employees, but there are consultants, contractors and vendors that need access to the network as well. CSI and FBI studies have shown time and time again that the biggest threats come from the inside. Of course, that is not to say that you should ignore the hacker threat, but even they are getting much more sophisticated and can break in from the outside and impersonate an insider by using their credentials.

Blue Lance focuses on auditing and maintaining audit trails. With nearly twenty years of security experience, this approach mitigates and significantly lowers risks. In fact, Blue Lance pioneered the development of audit trail technology for Novell and Windows networks along with a number of firsts in network audit security, including real-time monitoring, automated filtering of data and secure consolidation of system logs. More importantly for credit unions, Blue Lance's approach to security has deep roots in the financial services sector.

Many credit unions run mixed environments of Novell NetWare and Windows NT/2000, so Blue Lance's LT Auditor+ supports both eDirectory and Active Directory. The product tracks exactly who is doing what, when and where on the credit union's network. We do this by running a compact agent on each server that reports back in real time to a central database. This database is then queried by an easy-to-use Windows application that comes with fifty reports that IT administrators can get up and running quickly. Of course, these reports can be easily customized and new reports added at any time.

Security and network administrators appreciate these reports because they show all of the activity on their network, plus we have a solution that allows them to take a "snapshot" of their NetWare directory. This assessment tool makes it very easy to monitor user activity and discover any compliance issues. With real-time monitoring, auditing and computer forensics technology, we are well positioned to secure the assets of credit unions from Navy Federal down to smaller credit unions.



Tommy Cathey is the Director of Strategic Relations for Blue Lance, Inc. and is responsible for his company's partnership with Novell. He works with Novell's product managers to develop new products and solutions around Novell's strategy. Tommy has spent over three years with Blue Lance in a role of strategic relations, product development, and sales strategy. During that time, new products such as LT Auditor+, Server Edition, which is shipping with NetWare 6.5 and LT Assessment+, have been launched. Currently, his main focus is around security, specifically for auditing and assessment for NetWare and eDirectory. Tommy earned his bachelor of science in mathematics from the University of Houston.