

CU SECURITY - ESTABLISHING A PROACTIVE APPROACH

Credit unions looking to establish a proactive security stance need to follow a fairly straightforward approach: take a close look at their overall environment via a thorough assessment and then take immediate remediation steps based on what the assessment discovered. Naturally policies play a key role - both in development and implementation. Finally, there needs to be a process in place for continually monitoring the credit union's security posture.

Databases hold the credit union's "crown jewels": member account information and identity data. This valuable information is a hot commodity for hackers and unscrupulous insiders. The fact is that it is easier to steal the information and use that pilfered data to steal money, than it is to try and steal the money directly. That is why we have taken the unique approach of solely focusing on protecting databases.

IPLocks utilizes the same standard security methodology that credit unions are used to applying to their network and perimeter, and systematically applies it to mission critical databases. First we perform a vulnerability assessment on the databases, thoroughly probing for weaknesses. After pointing out the database vulnerabilities and providing problem resolution recommendations, we help our clients develop and implement database security guidelines based on industry best practices and customer specific requirements. Additionally, we continually monitor for suspicious usage and access patterns, data corruption, structural integrity changes, patch verifications and security policy deviations and report them immediately. Ongoing monitoring delivers a whole new level of protection to the credit union's databases.

While constantly monitoring the health of the database, it is important to note that we are completely non-intrusive in that no software actually resides on the database server. You could consider our solution as an intelligent layer on top of the database, but one that doesn't require agent software. This elegant data transaction-level solution is designed to ensure database data integrity, security, availability and confidentiality across heterogeneous database environments.

In addition to automating database assessments and continuously monitoring access and usage patterns, data and structural integrity, security policy violations and ongoing security compliance monitoring, our software is a powerful change control tool. For example, auditors can take a snapshot of the database and easily develop a historical baseline of events to ensure that no unauthorized changes have been made. IT and security personnel will also appreciate the automation of our sophisticated log file monitoring and alerting, while senior managers enjoy our easy-to-read score cards and security summary reports. The bottom line is that our laser-like focus on database availability, security and integrity provides immediate and high-impact benefits to a credit union's risk mitigation program.



George Csaba has over 12 years of product marketing/product management experience focusing on enterprise database management, ERP, data warehousing, business intelligence and data assurance / security. He has successfully defined and marketed products and technologies through the product life cycle by focusing on customer and market driven requirements. Prior to joining IPLocks, Mr. Csaba was instrumental in the success of Oracle's data warehousing initiative, which established the company as a prominent player in the Data Warehousing space. During that time he launched a number of business intelligence and ERP based warehousing solutions. He holds an MBA from Santa Clara University and a Masters Degree in Computer Science from the Technical University of Budapest.