

CU SECURITY: BEYOND THE MOAT - COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY STRATEGIES

Credit unions that are looking to properly implement security need to work with security vendors that are focused on the financial services industry. This is because though the technology used from industry to industry is the same, the issues that relate to compliance within a financial institution are exceedingly more difficult than any other industry. That is also why Message Secure has focused solely on working with financial services firms since 1997 and why we can better serve this industry than vendors with no Financial Service focus.

Institutions that manage their own security, usually find that there are many areas that are missed when it comes time to review their security posture with either an auditor or an examiner. Audits require you to show that something was in place or happening at a certain point in time. Though many institutions might have logs, it is necessary to review the logs periodically to assure that the institution was protected yesterday, last week and last year. This is extremely important since Security Systems allow people to work whether they are configured securely or not. Think about it, if the core processing system is not operating correctly, the tellers will let you know. If the firewall is not blocking bad guys, how will you know? Is it working properly right now????

There are many companies that sell services or products that provide signature based Intrusion Prevention systems. The fact is that signature based systems are just not adequate any more. Our VSecurity™ integrated security platform runs on telecom carrier class hardware and scans everything coming into and going out of the credit union using signature based virus control and IPS systems, however, we go to the next level to provide the institution with protection. Experience has shown us that e-mail and web browsing are the primary source of threats so we control the mail connections through our VSecureMail™ system which provides Anti-Spam and Application Level Intrusion Prevention. In a similar manner we also provide Application Level Intrusion Prevention within our VSecurity™ for all Web Browsing. This Application Level control also provides a great deal of management over all web traffic into the institution. You will know the 5-W's of web browsing for each employee. Who, What, Where, When and Why!

When credit unions attack security issues in a piecemeal fashion, they often end up wasting money on disparate hardware and software systems. The only way that credit unions can ensure compliance without investing in security expertise, hardware, and software is to work with a managed security service provider. The majority of financial institutions are quite proficient at handling internal policies and procedures, they are just not equipped to handle round-the-clock network monitoring that is necessary in today's risk filled world and demanded by newly trained examiners.

Not only are credit unions under attack from the outside, but they face a huge regulatory burden as well. We know the financial services industry inside and out and how they operate. This is evidenced in our trademark: Compliance Assurance™. We maintain a laser like focus on helping credit unions to assess, attain, maintain and demonstrate compliance with their ever-changing and complex information security obligations via our VSecurity™ platform.



Cary Conrad is President of Message Secure Corporation. Mr. Conrad has over 25 years experience in the electronic communications industry. His career started in the radar Industry with engineering positions at Hughes Aircraft, Northrop Corporation and MIT's Lincoln Laboratory. Mr. Conrad left MIT in the early 1990's to commercialize communication technology developed at MIT. He started a company called Object Systems, which had success in the Distributed Object Networking market. Mr. Conrad sold Object Systems in 1997 and immediately started Message Secure Corporation. Message Secure brings a complete suite of Managed Security Services to the financial services industry assisting its clients in achieving complete electronic security compliance.