

Protecting Member Data at Rest and in Motion

The greatest risk for a small credit union today is strictly related to how Internet savvy their members are. In reality this is not a risk to the credit union per se, but if a home user types all their private information on a rogue site believing they are actually giving that information to the credit union, somehow the problem ends up belonging to the credit union anyway. If your members become subjects of ID theft because they receive a hoax email, your credit union can't say 'not my problem'. You must watch for such fraudulent activity and use a monitoring service that will immediately take down rogue sites. Also, you need to be sure your members become savvy enough to be able to spot such scams by educating them and making them well aware of your policies and of the risks of such frauds.

When we talk about technologies, there is never one panacea for every problem. Any organization that wants to protect its data must apply criteria of defense in depth. Gateway protection alone can be very effective against Internet threats, and yet will leave you completely exposed to internal threats. Even endpoint security alone is not enough, because it still tries to solve the same issue – threats that come from outside.

The problem all these technologies don't solve is the danger of an employee wanting to cause damage. But in my opinion there is an easy defense against that, and again it comes down to education. In my many years of experience as CTO of Network Box, I have seen several cases of disgruntled employees trying to cause damage or steal data. Every time, it always came down to the fact that that person had no idea of how much information the IT department can collect behind the scenes.

No one really desires to end up in jail, but sometimes people do not understand the extent of the gravity of their actions and the fact that such actions can result in criminal charges, and that proof of their actions is constantly being collected in various places by the IT Department. Let them know what goes on in IT! I believe that the vast majority of them will think twice before attempting anything, and for those who think they can outsmart IT, let them know what charges they could face.

Our solution is a managed UTM device. Hence, it is several things together. First of all, it is a gateway device that contains every bit of necessary protection to keep your network safe from Internet attacks. But it is also managed, and this is the most important bit of it. We are currently running 300 daily updates for signatures to ensure that as soon as a signature is available, we PUSH it to our customers' boxes. Our staff is trained and specialized in network security. Many are CISSP. Our customers have a team of experts working as part of their own internal IT. This is hard to achieve internally because in small organizations IT staff will be more generalists and rarely specialized in security, and those who are truly specialists will tend to leave for larger corporations. Most of our customers used to spend 'zero' hours managing their security – so basically they neglected one of the most important aspects of their network protection. By adopting Network Box they now have 24/7 protection in the hands of a global company employing highly specialized personnel. Internet gateway protection is not an option, it is a necessity. We specialize just in doing that, and ensuring that our customers are fully protected 24 hours a day, while working with them as part of their team to define their Internet security policies.



Pierluigi Stella
CTO



Contact Info

www.networkboxusa.com

Pierluigi Stella is CTO of Network Box USA, Inc. Pierluigi worked for 15 years at IBM, accumulating 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.