

Wave Secure Data Group – Security Posture Assessment

Technology advances by leaps and bounds and IT departments struggle to keep pace with these changes. Businesses use technology to gain competitive advantage, introduce operational efficiencies, reduce costs, and accelerate their product delivery. The fast pace of technology development and deployment introduces vulnerabilities that must be discovered and mitigated. Security management is an on-going task that must be regularly assessed to measure its effectiveness.

Wave Secure Data Group's Security Posture Assessment service provides clients with an impartial analysis of the effectiveness of their security management processes. Security management begins and ends with policies and procedures. This assessment begins with an analysis of the client's security policies and procedures resulting in recommendations for necessary additions and modifications.

Security posture is determined by both the state of the client's threat defense measures, and the policies and procedures defining such things as acceptable use, data handling, and incident response. Wave SDG analyzes both of these areas and provides recommendations for improving the state of security in any environment.

Successfully securing assets requires a thorough understanding of the assets that need protection; in technology environments the company's *data* is the asset that requires protection. This assessment begins with a discovery of the client's data assets, mapping its characteristics and evaluating policies and procedures. The client's security management methodology will be evaluated and recommendations for modification will be made.

- **Data Discovery:** Discovery and evaluation of the client's digital information, storage location, protection mechanisms, and dynamics.
- **Policy and Procedure Analysis:** Review and evaluate effectiveness of security policies and procedures. Do they adequately protect the client's Data?
- **Business Impact Analysis, Risk Assessment**
- **Evaluation of existing threat defense mechanisms**
- **Vulnerability Assessment, Penetration Testing**

Data Discovery

Data Discovery and Analysis locates all of the digital information used by a corporation. This data is then characterized and prioritized. This process creates a matrix that defines the defense factor required for each piece of Data. The data is also assigned properties that define its characteristics for a complete understanding of how the data is collected, stored, processed, and delivered.

Policy and Procedure Analysis

The client's overall security management methodology will be assessed, including all documented policies and procedures. The appropriateness of these policies and procedures is weighed against the legal requirements imposed upon the client, effectiveness at preserving the client's operational continuity, and the norms in the client's industry vertical. Legal ramifications, damage to corporate reputation, disruption of operations, and industry standards are all key factors when determining the effectiveness and appropriateness of security policies and procedures. One thing is certain, if a formal set of policies and procedures does not exist (or does not address certain standards of behavior), any attempt to implement threat defense mechanisms will be less than successful.

Business Impact Analysis

The impact a security breach can cause to a business must be analyzed in order to determine adequate security measures. This business impact is an important decision factor used by executive management to weigh the cost vs. benefit of acquiring security protection technology. Wave SDG includes a Business Impact Analysis in every Security Posture Assessment in order to aid the business decision makers with establishing justification for implementing necessary threat protection mechanisms. Wave SDG only recommends security solutions that are appropriate, based on the asset that requires protection.

Evaluation

Most clients have implemented some form of threat defense technology, if only a firewall protecting the primary perimeter of the network. Any effective Security Posture Assessment must include an evaluation of the current state of threat defense implemented within the client's environment. Wave SDG will conduct an infrastructure discovery and evaluation that will be used to determine what threat defense capabilities are currently deployed. This will include a mapping of the network's attack vectors, security incident visibility, access control capabilities, and primary defense mechanisms.

Vulnerability

In order to validate the effectiveness of the currently deployed threat defense mechanisms, penetration testing is included in the Security Posture Assessment. This testing will be conducted from two perspectives; from the public network to test all externally exposed attack vectors, and from the internal network to measure the client's exposure to internally sourced threats. This penetration testing can be performed using non-intrusive or fully intrusive attacks. The appropriate approach will be determined by the client's IT and executive management in conjunction with recommendations made by Wave SDG's security consultants.

Summary

In today's environment of government regulatory compliance and an ever increasing threat from cyber criminals, companies must implement well defined standards-based security management procedures coupled with proven threat defense technologies. Wave Secure Data Group is able to provide expert advice for both security management and threat defense that will protect their clients from the many tangible and intangible ramifications of security breaches.

Why Wave Secure Data Group?

Wave Secure Data Group is a vendor neutral technology consulting company. Our consultative approach provides our clients with impartial assessments of available technology based on the client's specific needs. Our highly trained staff brings years of industry experience from both sides of the "fence". We understand the technology industry from our client's perspective, enabling us to provide relevant solutions to solve your specific needs.

To learn more about Wave Secure Data Group, visit
<http://www.wave-sdg.com>

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The *Business* of IT