All.Net Analyst Report and Newsletter

Welcome to our Analyst Report and Newsletter

Cybersecurity From Scratch – Part 11: The Halting Problem

Every once in a while we get to create a cyber-security program from scratch. …

Pencils down

We were notified at the beginning of this week that we should stop all efforts on the Pathfinder and Pathkeeper as well as the CIO and related activities.

There is every possibility that the program will be restarted, perhaps in a different form, perhaps soon, perhaps not… However, at this point all work was stopped and unless and until something else happens, we will not know anything further or be able to share it with you.

Accomplishments

In 10 weeks, starting at the end of the Pathfinder, we were able to accomplish a lot of things. This includes:

- Getting about 40 key decisions made and approved
- Getting initial security awareness training completed
- Getting initial backups done
- Getting an architecture in draft form completed for a future more secure path
- Testing components of the new architecture and verifying capabilities and limitations
- Starting to operate an initial counter-intelligence solution
- Building an initial interdependency model
- Getting initial documentation standards operating for formal sign-offs of decisions
- Producing an inventory of applications and systems reconciled with consequences
- Updating the current state and GWiz™ metrics to reflect changes
  - Moving ~30% from maturity None to Defined (some initial and repeatable)

Questions?

Many would likely ask me questions like "Why was the program stopped?"

- I actually know, but I'm not going to tell you. Not because it's anything bad or particularly unusual. Rather, because the people in the company know what company this is, and I don't want to unnecessarily create any internal issues.

Conclusions

I wish it were not true, but too often, programs to move cybersecurity forward start and end based on poor decisions. This is **NOT** the case here. The program was started with the best of intentions, made tremendous progress in a short time frame, and was ended (or perhaps paused) for reasonable reasons. Perhaps the series will continue, perhaps the work sill continue without the series continuing, but hopefully, our readers have gained some insights.