All.Net Analyst Report and Newsletter

Welcome to our Analyst Report and Newsletter

Security MUCs it up again

By now it should be no surprise. Microsoft Massive Update Crashes (MUCs) it up again.

Interdependencies and risk aggregation

yet again turns a minor bug into a massive problem. AT&T in the 1980s had a bad bit in an update that crashed their national networks.

Who could have ever known...

Everyone on the planet? The ignorance excuse simply cannot survive here.

By now you should be well aware of the extent to which these things are necessary in order to assure availability and other desired security properties:

- **Sound change control**, since at least the 1970s.
- **Separation of duties**, since before computers were even uses.
- **Disaggregation of risk**, certainly since 2000.
- **Interdependency analysis**, certainly since 2000.
- **Software diversity**, certainly since 2000.
- **Staged deployment**, certainly for a very long time.
- Change rollover (**non-critical systems first**), certainly for the last 15 years.
- **Business continuity & disaster recovery**, certainly since the 1990s (and long ago).
- **Security testing**, certainly since 2000.

None of these are new in any way. Each of them reasonably applied would have found and fixed the problem. And when the consequences are global, which is all about risk aggregation, they should all be part and parcel of the operational methodology security supports. Standards of all sorts, our standards of practice, any sensible audit, a diligent CISO or CIO or CEO or Board of Directors would have know about it. Whoever failed to act is responsible. But…

Security causes more harm than good...

yet again… Which is to say, due diligence would have, should have, did catch this for many of us who did **NOT** suffer this harm.

A simple mistake?

Not gonna cut it. Redundancy is necessary in high consequences, and part of all the listed items above.

Conclusion

There is simply no reasonable excuse for the lack of prudence across the numerous companies and other entities that cause this global outage by their incompetence.

