

Mobile Computing Summit 2011 Security Workshop

Securing the Mobile Enterprise Fred Cohen – CEO Fred Cohen & Associates

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Fred Cohen & Associates The overall information security situation today

- The security requirements have not changed
- The "risk" landscape has changed
 - Threats increase with time
 - Vulnerabilities remain / are more exploitable
 - Consequences are essentially unchanged
- Resources for security are relatively decreasing
- Asking the simple questions
 - What can we control?
 - How can we control it?



- We can control lots of things
 - Insider threats, vulnerabilities, risk aggregation, information flows, quality of mechanisms, costs, accepted risks, perceptions of the enterprise, optional promises we make, etc.
- We cannot seem to control our people
 - They are going mobile
 - We can't seem to / we don't want to stop it
- How does "security" say "YES" to mobility?
 - Prioritize!



- Say yes to mobility
 - When the risk is low
 - When the risk is medium and controllable
 - When it is the best alternative
- Knowing WHEN to say "No"
 - Identify and understand the business and its risks
 - Recognize the rewards from mobility
 - Set reasonable limits that everyone understands
- Knowing HOW to say "Yes"
 - Creative security enablement
 - Removing the barriers to productivity



- Classified process control facility
 - Scientists need to walk around the facility keeping track of things and making adjustments in near real-time
- Alternatives:
 - Place a classified computer and network every 15 feet and have the scientists log in to each as they walk around, enter the little bit of data, do a calculation, adapt the system, and log back out
 - Have them use mobile classified devices to do the same work at lower cost, more ease of use, more efficiency, and less human resistance



Military field operations

 Operational military personnel are in the field and need to be able to operate effectively. That includes gaining access to real-time intelligence, targeting, mission planning, ordering explosions at locations at times, etc. - and all that goes with it

Alternatives:

- Don't have the advantage of faster tempo, precise targeting, more agility, and lose the war
- Use mobile computing with secure communications and users who are properly trained and knowledgeable and win the war



- Major pharmaceutical company high-valued and regulated drug manufacturing lines
 - Need access to process control data and limited ability to "adjust" process w/in pre-defined control parameters. But no "changes" to the line and "incidents" costs \$100M+
- Alternatives
 - Permanently colocate 5 shifts of the full range of scientists and engineers with each line
 - Use mobile remote control capability to shift control and data from place to place over time with digital diodes and FSM controls to limit effects



- Global financial institution with high-valued real-time transaction systems
 - Need to allow trades from authorized individuals from anywhere at any time using whatever device the user wants to use
- Alternatives
 - Lose the globe-trotting wealthy customer to the competition
 - Write applications allowing trades from insecure mobile devices anywhere at any time and provide a more secure submit/commit device for high valued transactions



- Startup secure cloud computing service (TAP)
 - Need to support secure mobile access to enterprise resources through cloud infrastructure (integrity, availability, confidentiality, use control, and accountability all required)
- Alternatives
 - Each enterprise invests millions of dollars and more each year to create, operate, and manage an end-to-end security architecture for mobile access to enterprise systems
 - A provider creates different surety level endpoint protection environments integrated with cloudbased verification updates and interconnects to enterprise POPs with economy of scale



- Nuclear power plant control room operations
 - Need to keep the power plant under control at all times using specialized experts who can use specialized control systems in well trained operational modes and real-time simulation systems for higher risk situations
- Alternatives
 - Permanently colocate 5 shifts of the full range of scientists and engineers at each plant
 - No mobile alternative is currently and reasonably available – BUT when radiation levels are high, why not allow mobility of the control function?



- Each of the examples discussed has
 - Architectural elements
 - Design elements
 - Implementation and operational requirements
- Protection is something you do
 Not something you buy
- Economy of scale comes when you architect one after another and come to understand design patterns across a wide spectrum



- There are always ways to say "YES" to mobility with adequate security
 - If I can do it for classified environments, military systems, real-time industrial control systems, highvalued manufacturing systems, enterprise cloud computing companies, and high-dollar financial transactions, you can do it for almost anything else you want to identify
- But there is a cost to doing the job right
 - Each situation demands a unique look
 - Most cases require a comprehensive understanding and architectural perspective



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