
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: COMMITTEE HEAD AND VP SMITH
FROM: JOSIAH S GREENWELL, INFOSEC
SUBJECT: ~~ADDOC~~ ACCOUNTING SYSTEM COMMITTEE
DATE: OCTOBER 15, 2015

Though I appreciate the consideration given to me by this committee, there are a number of reasons that network security needs to be represented in discussions about new financial systems. The knowledge that our network security engineers (NSE) have about our company's networks and general security protocols allows them to give advice on the most cost optimized approach to selecting software. Based not just on initial and licensing costs of a software package but knowledge of how much would be required to maintain, integrate, and secure these packages on our network – as you well know the resources it can cost to integrate new, seemingly inexpensive, software that does not align with our current systems.

Considering the sensitive and regulatory nature of financial data – the security of

REDACTED

It could be argued that the “defense in depth architecture”, described by Peterson as “the notion that every security control is vulnerable” (p.6), could be considered a form of the unicorn theory approach. To expand, the definition of defense in depth, given by Stawowski, is a layered protection architecture that works so that if one layer is defeated or penetrated the next layers prevent easy access to resources and allow for a quick identification and elimination of a threat (p.35). This is already following the idea that there could be unknown vulnerabilities in a system. For example, at this author's first web developer job in 2000, he was told to assume that the database had no protection when performing queries. This was not due to any actual lack of protection on the database but was meant to ensure the web-based applications fully sanitized any queries to add an extra layer of protection – in case our testing missed an error or an error existed that the company had not foreseen.

The idea of network and information security as a unicorn, as something that

REDACTED