Securing the SQL Server Data Platform Defining a security strategy

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I've been working in IT for nearly 20 years in various roles. With over 15 years of experience with SQL Server, I've always placed a strong emphasis on Security, Risk Management, and Compliance for the SQL Server Data Platform. Ensuring industry best practices and regulatory requirements are followed from an infrastructural point of view.

Session Objectives

- Understanding the attack surface
- Principle of least privilege
- Monitoring & Auditing
- Defining a strategy

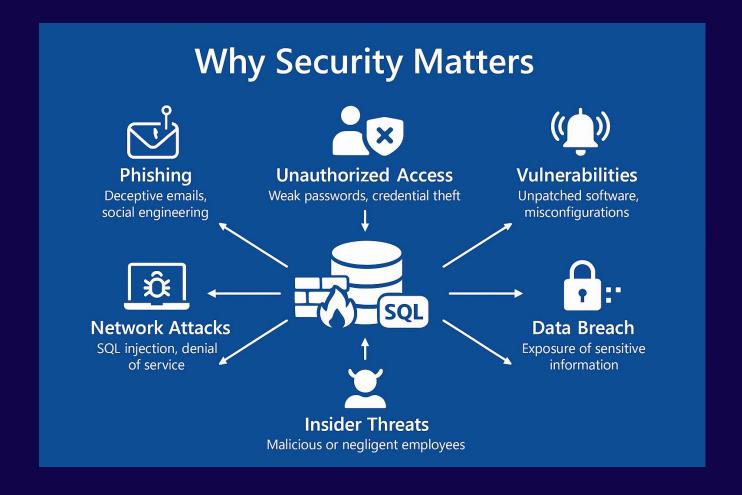


Schedule

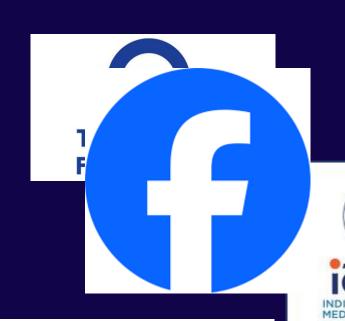
- Building your Security Strategy
- Hardening SQL Server
- Authentication & Authorization!! Break !!
- Encrypting SQL Server
- Monitoring, Auditing & Compliance
- Back-up & Recovery Strategies
- Tools & Resources



Why Security Matters













cutout.

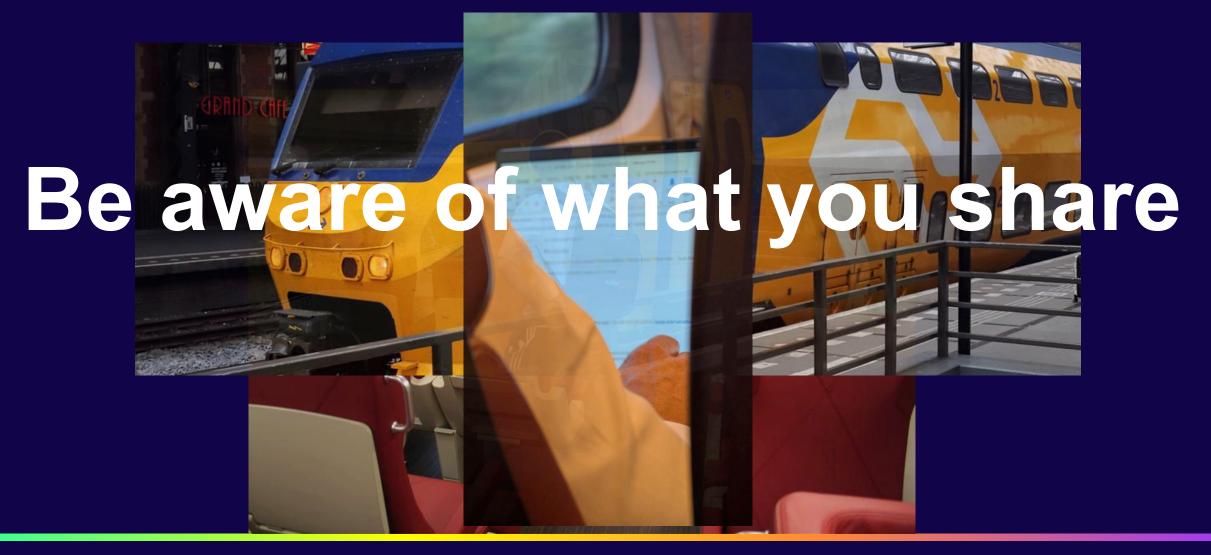


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KAI T Mobile



"It's not a matter of if, but when..."





Building your Security Strategy



Security-First Mentality

- Mindset vs Mentality
- Thinking like an attacker
- 360 degree Security



Strategy Framework

- Identify
- Assess
- Respond



Strategy Framework

- CIA triad
 - Confidentiality
 - Integrity
 - Availability
- Risk Tolerance / Appetite



Human Layer Security

- Training & Education
 - Educate your team
 - Educate your developers
 - Educate your security team
- Social Engineering Defenses



Hardening SQL Server – Layer by Layer



Perimeter & Network Layers

- Physical & Digital Security Methods
 - Office building
 - Key Cards
 - Data Center access
 - Firewall
 - VPN Access
 - Network Segmentation
- Who has access to what?



Endpoint Security

- Antivirus
- EDR
- Patching



Application Layer

- Design reviews
- (Peer) Code Reviews
- AST
- Pentesting



Mission-Critical Systems

- HA/DR
- Monitoring pipelines
- Data Availability
- Data Encryption
- RBAC



Default SQL Server Installation, what's next?





Authentication & Authorization



Identity Strategy

• Where to store credentials?

- Automation?
- SQL Authentication?





Role-Based Access Control

- Administrative tasks
- Applicational tasks



Authentication & Authorization





ON TOUR | NETHERLANDS

PASS

BREAK

Encrypting SQL Server



Encryption in Transit

- Transport Layer Security
- Certificates
- SQL Server Fallback Certificate



Encryption at Rest

- Transparent Data Encryption
- OS Compromise
- Read-only access?



In-Memory Encryption

- Always Encrypted
- Client-side encryption



Keys & Secrets Management

- Key rotation?
- Certificate rotation?
- Password Management?

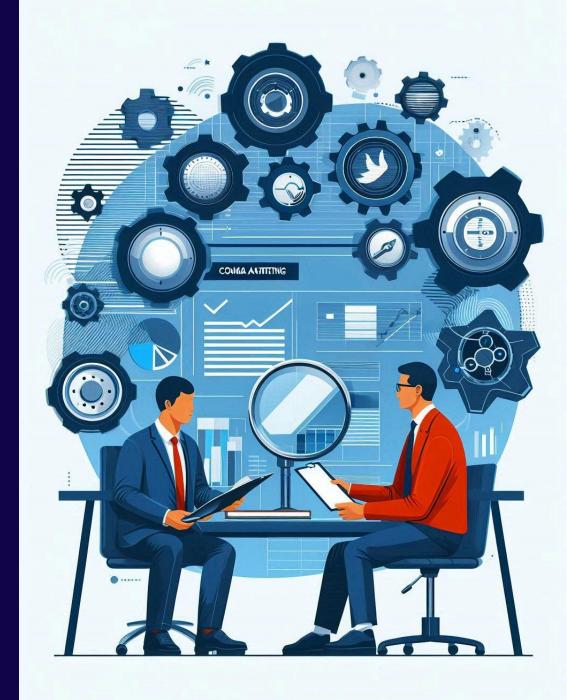


Encrypting SQL Server





Monitoring, Auditing & Compliance



SQL Audit & Extended Events

- Change tracking
- Anomaly detection
- Hack attempts



Compliance Mapping

- GDPR / ISO / HIPAA / ...
- PCI DSS

- CIS Benchmark
- STIG
- TBA...



Reporting

- Uniform
- Ease of mind
- Compliancy rates
- Always 100%?
- Building a baseline



Monitoring, Auditing & Compliance





Back-up & Recovery Strategies



Back-up Planning

- Recovery Models
- Snapshot back-ups
- Back-up schedules



Back-up Tiering

- 3 Tier Back-up Model
 - Tier 0
 - Tier 1
 - Tier 2
 - Tier 3



Recovery Scenario's

- Recovery Point Objectives
- Recovery Time Objectives
- Recover from which tier?



Tools & Resources



Built-in Tools

- SQL Vulnerability Assessment
- Defender for SQL*









Wrap Up



Summary / Takeaways

- Security aspects of SQL Server
- Monitoring & Auditing
- Principle of least privilege
- Back-up & Recovery
- Tools & Resources



Next steps...

- Goal setting
- Strategies
- Design
- Assess
- Continuously Improve!



Q&A





Your feedback is important to us



Evaluate this session at:

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Thank you

Enjoy the rest of the event!

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