

# CIS Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2 Database

v1.0.0

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# Overview

This document, Security Configuration Benchmark for Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2, provides prescriptive guidance for establishing a secure configuration posture for Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2 versions – running on Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2. This guide was tested against Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2 Service Pack 1 64-bit version. To obtain the latest version of this guide, please visit <http://benchmarks.cisecurity.org>. If you have questions, comments, or have identified ways to improve this guide, please write us at [feedback@cisecurity.org](mailto:feedback@cisecurity.org).

## *Intended Audience*

This benchmark is intended for system and application administrators, security specialists, auditors, help desk, and platform deployment personnel who plan to develop, deploy, assess, or secure solutions that incorporate Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2 on a Microsoft Windows platform.

## *Consensus Guidance*

This benchmark was created using a consensus review process comprised of volunteer and contract subject matter experts. Consensus participants provide perspective from a diverse set of backgrounds including consulting, software development, audit and compliance, security research, operations, government, and legal.

Each CIS benchmark undergoes two phases of consensus review. The first phase occurs during initial benchmark development. During this phase, subject matter experts convene to discuss, create, and test working drafts of the benchmark. This discussion occurs until consensus has been reached on benchmark recommendations. The second phase begins after the benchmark has been released to the public Internet. During this phase, all feedback provided by the Internet community is reviewed by the consensus team for incorporation in the benchmark. If you are interested in participating in the consensus review process, please send us a note to [feedback@cisecurity.org](mailto:feedback@cisecurity.org).

## Typographical Conventions

The following typographical conventions are used throughout this guide:

Convention	Meaning
Stylized Monospace font	Used for blocks of code, command, and script examples. Text should be interpreted exactly as presented.
Monospace font	Used for inline code, commands, or examples. Text should be interpreted exactly as presented.
<italic font in brackets>	Italic texts set in angle brackets denote a variable requiring substitution for a real value.
Italic font	Used to denote the title of a book, article, or other publication.
<b>Note</b>	Additional information or caveats

## Scoring Information

A scoring status indicates whether compliance with the given recommendation impacts the assessed target's benchmark score. The following scoring statuses are used in this benchmark:

### Scored

Failure to comply with "Scored" recommendations will decrease the final benchmark score. Compliance with "Scored" recommendations will increase the final benchmark score.

### Not Scored

Failure to comply with "Not Scored" recommendations will not decrease the final benchmark score. Compliance with "Not Scored" recommendations will not increase the final benchmark score.

## ***Profile Definitions***

The following configuration profiles are defined by this Benchmark:

- **Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x**

System administrators with any level of security knowledge and experience can understand and perform the specified actions. The action is unlikely to cause an interruption of service to the operating system or the applications that run on it. The actions can be automatically monitored, and the configuration verified, by Scoring Tools that are available from the Center or by CIS-certified Scoring Tools.

- **Level 2 - SQL Server 2008.x**

This profile extends the "Level 1" profile. Items in this profile exhibit one or more of the following characteristics:

- are intended for environments or use cases where security is paramount.
- acts as defense in depth measure.
- may negatively inhibit the utility or performance of the technology.

## ***Acknowledgements***

This benchmark exemplifies the great things a community of users, vendors, and subject matter experts can accomplish through consensus collaboration. The CIS community thanks the entire consensus team with special recognition to the following individuals who contributed greatly to the creation of this guide:

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# Recommendations

## 1 Updates and Patches

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### 1.1 Install the Latest SQL Server Service Packs and Hotfixes (Not Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

#### Description:

SQL Server patches contain program updates that fix security and product functionality issues found in the software. These patches can be installed with a hotfix which is a single patch, a cumulative update which is a small group of patches or a service pack which is a large collection of patches.

The SQL Server version and patch levels should be the most recent compatible with the organizations' operational needs

#### Rationale:

Using the most recent SQL Server software, along with all applicable patches can help limit the possibilities for vulnerabilities in the software, the installation version and/or patches applied during setup should be established according to the needs of the organization.

#### Audit:

To determine your SQL Server service pack level, run the following code snippet.

```
SELECT SERVERPROPERTY('ProductLevel') as SP_installed,  
SERVERPROPERTY('ProductVersion') as Version;
```

First column returns the installed Service Pack level, the second is the exact build number.

#### Remediation:

Identify the current version and patch level of your SQL Server instances and ensure they contain the latest security fixes. Make sure to test these fixes in your test environments before updating production instances.

The most recent SQL Server patches can be found here:

Hotfixes and Cumulative updates: <http://blogs.msdn.com/b/sqlreleaseservices/>

Service Packs: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/968382>

## References:

1. <http://support.microsoft.com/sp>
2. <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/968382>

## 2 Surface Area Reduction

SQL Server offers various configuration options, some of them can be controlled by the sp\_configure stored procedures. This section contains the listing of the corresponding recommendations.

### 2.1 Set the 'Ad Hoc Distributed Queries' Server Configuration Option to 0 (Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

#### Description:

Ad Hoc Distributed Queries Allow users to query data and execute statements on external data sources. This functionality should be disabled.

#### Rationale:

This feature can be used to remotely access and exploit vulnerabilities on remote SQL Server instances and to run unsafe Visual Basic for Application functions.

#### Audit:

Run the following T-SQL command:

```
SELECT name, CAST(value as int) as value_configured, CAST(value_in_use as int) as value_in_use
FROM sys.configurations
WHERE name = 'ad hoc distributed queries';
```

Both value columns must show 0.

### Remediation:

Run the following T-SQL command:

```
EXECUTE sp_configure 'show advanced options', 1;  
RECONFIGURE;  
EXECUTE sp_configure 'Ad Hoc Distributed Queries', 0;  
RECONFIGURE;  
GO  
EXECUTE sp_configure 'show advanced options', 0;  
RECONFIGURE;
```

### References:

1. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms187569\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms187569(v=sql.105).aspx)
2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms187569\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms187569(v=sql.100).aspx)

## 2.2 Set the 'CLR Enabled' Server Configuration Option to 0 (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

### Description:

The CLR enabled option specifies whether user assemblies can be run by SQL Server.

### Rationale:

Enabling use of CLR assemblies widens the attack surface of SQL Server and puts it at risk from both inadvertent and malicious assemblies.

### Audit:

Run the following T-SQL command:

```
SELECT name,  
       CAST(value as int) as value_configured,  
       CAST(value_in_use as int) as value_in_use  
FROM sys.configurations  
WHERE name = 'clr enabled';
```

Both value columns must show 0.

**Remediation:**

Run the following T-SQL command:

```
EXECUTE sp_configure 'clr enabled', 0;  
RECONFIGURE;
```

### *2.3 Set the 'Cross DB Ownership Chaining' Server Configuration Option to 0 (Scored)*

**Profile Applicability:**

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

**Description:**

This option allows controlling cross-database ownership chaining across all databases.

**Rationale:**

This option allows a member of the db\_owner role in a database to gain access to objects owned by a login in any other database, causing an unnecessary information disclosure.

**Audit:**

Run the following T-SQL command:

```
SELECT name,  
       CAST(value as int) as value_configured,  
       CAST(value_in_use as int) as value_in_use  
FROM sys.configurations  
WHERE name = 'Cross db ownership chaining';
```

Both value columns must show 0.

**Remediation:**

Run the following T-SQL command:

```
EXECUTE sp_configure 'Cross db ownership chaining', 0;  
RECONFIGURE;  
GO
```

**References:**

1. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms188694\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms188694(v=sql.105).aspx)
2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms188694\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms188694(v=sql.100).aspx)

## 2.4 Set the 'Database Mail XPs' Server Configuration Option to 0 (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

### Description:

Enables the generation and transmission of email messages from SQL Server.

### Rationale:

Disabling Database Mail reduces the SQL Server surface, eliminates a DOS attack vector and channel to exfiltrate data from the database server to a remote host.

### Audit:

Run the following T-SQL command:

```
SELECT name,  
       CAST(value as int) as value_configured,  
       CAST(value_in_use as int) as value_in_use  
FROM sys.configurations  
WHERE name = 'Database Mail XPs';
```

Both value columns must show 0.

### Remediation:

Run the following T-SQL command:

```
EXECUTE sp_configure 'show advanced options', 1;  
RECONFIGURE;  
EXECUTE sp_configure 'Database Mail XPs', 0;  
RECONFIGURE;  
GO  
EXECUTE sp_configure 'show advanced options', 0;  
RECONFIGURE;
```

## 2.5 Set the 'Ole Automation Procedures' Server Configuration Option to 0 (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

### Description:

Extended stored procedures that allow SQL Server users to execute functions external to SQL Server.

### Rationale:

Enabling this option will increase the attack surface of SQL Server and allow users to execute functions in the security context of SQL Server.

### Audit:

```
SELECT name,  
       CAST(value as int) as value_configured,  
       CAST(value_in_use as int) as value_in_use  
FROM sys.configurations  
WHERE name = 'Ole Automation Procedures';
```

### Remediation:

Run the following T-SQL command:

```
EXECUTE sp_configure 'show advanced options', 1;  
RECONFIGURE;  
EXECUTE sp_configure 'Ole Automation Procedures', 0;  
RECONFIGURE;  
GO  
EXECUTE sp_configure 'show advanced options', 0;  
RECONFIGURE;
```

### References:

1. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms191188\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms191188(v=sql.105).aspx)
2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms191188\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms191188(v=sql.100).aspx)

## 2.6 Set the 'Remote Access' Server Configuration Option to 0 (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

### Description:

Enables the execution of local stored procedures on remote servers or remote stored procedures on local server.

### Rationale:

Functionality can be abused to launch a Denial-of-Service (DoS) attack on remote servers by off-loading query processing to a target.

### Audit:

Run the following T-SQL command:

```
SELECT name,  
       CAST(value as int) as value_configured,  
       CAST(value_in_use as int) as value_in_use  
FROM sys.configurations  
WHERE name = 'Remote access';
```

Both value columns must show 0.

### Remediation:

Run the following T-SQL command:

```
EXECUTE sp_configure 'show advanced options', 1;  
RECONFIGURE;  
EXECUTE sp_configure 'Remote access', 0;  
RECONFIGURE;  
GO  
EXECUTE sp_configure 'show advanced options', 0;  
RECONFIGURE;
```

### References:

1. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms187660\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms187660(v=sql.105).aspx)
2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms187660\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms187660(v=sql.100).aspx)

## 2.7 Set the 'Remote Admin Connections' Server Configuration Option to 0 (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

### Description:

This option defines whether the Dedicated Admin Connection (DAC) is listening on localhost only or on the SQL Server IP address.

### Rationale:

The Dedicated Admin Connection is a powerful database feature that allows connected users to circumvent the SQL Server abstraction layer and have direct access to several system tables which can be used to conduct malicious activities. This feature should be restricted to local administration only to reduce exposure.

### Audit:

Run the following T-SQL command:

```
SELECT name,  
       CAST(value as int) as value_configured,  
       CAST(value_in_use as int) as value_in_use  
FROM sys.configurations  
WHERE name = 'Remote admin connections';
```

Both value columns must show 1 on clustered installations.

### Remediation:

Run the following T-SQL command on clustered installations:

```
EXECUTE sp_configure 'show advanced options', 1;  
RECONFIGURE;  
EXECUTE sp_configure 'Remote admin connections', 1;  
RECONFIGURE;  
GO  
EXECUTE sp_configure 'show advanced options', 0;  
RECONFIGURE;
```

### References:



1. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms190468\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms190468(v=sql.105).aspx)
2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms190468\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms190468(v=sql.100).aspx)

## 2.8 Set the 'Scan For Startup Procs' Server Configuration Option to 0 (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

### Description:

This option causes SQL Server to scan for and automatically run all stored procedures that are set to execute upon service startup.

### Rationale:

Enforcing this control reduces the threat of an entity leveraging these facilities for malicious purposes.

### Audit:

Run the following T-SQL command:

```
SELECT name,  
       CAST(value as int) as value_configured,  
       CAST(value_in_use as int) as value_in_use  
FROM sys.configurations  
WHERE name = 'Scan for startup procs';
```

Both value columns must show 0.

### Remediation:

Run the following T-SQL command:

```
EXECUTE sp_configure 'show advanced options', 1;  
RECONFIGURE;  
EXECUTE sp_configure 'Scan for startup procs', 0;  
RECONFIGURE;  
GO  
EXECUTE sp_configure 'show advanced options', 0;  
RECONFIGURE;
```

### Impact:

Setting Scan for Startup Procedures to 0 will prevent certain audit traces and other commonly used monitoring SPs from re-starting on start up.

### References:

1. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms179460\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms179460(v=sql.105).aspx)
2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms179460\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms179460(v=sql.100).aspx)

## 2.9 Set the 'SQL Mail XPs' Server Configuration Option to 0 (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

### Description:

SQL Mail provides a mechanism to send, receive, delete, and process e-mail messages using SQL Server.

### Rationale:

SQL Mail, which is deprecated in favor of Database Mail and if disabled reduces the SQL Server surface, eliminates a DOS attack vector and channel to exfiltrate data from the database server to a remote host.

### Audit:

Run the following T-SQL command:

```
SELECT name,  
       CAST(value as int) as value_configured,  
       CAST(value_in_use as int) as value_in_use  
FROM sys.configurations  
WHERE name = 'SQL Mail XPs';
```

Both value columns must show 0.

### Remediation:

Run the following T-SQL command:

```
EXECUTE sp_configure 'show advanced options', 1;  
RECONFIGURE;  
EXECUTE sp_configure 'SQL Mail XPs', 0;  
RECONFIGURE;  
GO  
EXECUTE sp_configure 'show advanced options', 0;  
RECONFIGURE;
```

**References:**

1. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms190755\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms190755(v=sql.105).aspx)
2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms190755\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms190755(v=sql.100).aspx)

## 2.10 Set the 'Trustworthy' Database Property to Off (Scored)

**Profile Applicability:**

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

**Description:**

The TRUSTWORTHY option allows database objects to access objects in other database under certain circumstances.

**Rationale:**

Provides protection from malicious CLR assemblies or extended procedures.

**Audit:**

Run the following T-SQL query to list the database with a Trustworthy database property value of ON:

```
SELECT name
FROM sys.databases
WHERE is_trustworthy_on = 1
AND name != 'msdb'
AND state = 0;
```

**Remediation:**

Execute the following statement against the database:

```
ALTER DATABASE <dbname>
SET TRUSTWORTHY OFF;
```

**References:**

1. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms187861\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms187861(v=sql.100).aspx)
2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms187861\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms187861(v=sql.105).aspx)

## *2.11 Disable Unnecessary SQL Server Protocols (Not Scored)*

### **Profile Applicability:**

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

### **Description:**

SQL Server supports Shared Memory, Named Pipes, TCP/IP and VIA protocols. However, SQL Server should be configured to use the bare minimum required based on the organization's needs.

### **Rationale:**

Using fewer protocols minimizes the attack surface of SQL Server and in some cases can protect it from remote attacks.

### **Audit:**

Open SQL Server Configuration Manager; go to the SQL Server Network Configuration. Ensure that only required protocols are enabled.

### **Remediation:**

Open SQL Server Configuration Manager; go to the SQL Server Network Configuration. Ensure that only required protocols are enabled. Disable protocols not necessary.

### **Impact:**

The Database Engine must be stopped and restarted for the change to take effect.

### **References:**

1. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms191294\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms191294(v=sql.105).aspx)
2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms191294\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms191294(v=sql.100).aspx)

## *2.12 Configure SQL Server to use non-standard ports (Not Scored)*

### **Profile Applicability:**

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

### **Description:**

If enabled, the default SQL Server instance will be assigned a default port of TCP:1433 for TCP/IP communication. Administrators can also configure named instances to use TCP:1433 for communication. TCP:1433 is a widely known SQL Server port and this port assignment should be changed.

### **Rationale:**

Using a non-default port helps protect the database from attacks directed to the default port.

### **Audit:**

Open a powershell window and run the following command:

```
PS C:\>netstat -ano|select-string 1433.+listening
```

This should return no lines. If any lines returned, check the process id in the last column if it's a SQL Server instance.

### **Remediation:**

1. In SQL Server Configuration Manager, in the console pane, expand SQL Server Network Configuration, expand Protocols for , and then double-click the TCP/IP or VIA protocol
2. In the TCP/IP Properties dialog box, on the IP Addresses tab, several IP addresses appear in the format IP1, IP2, up to IPAll. One of these is for the IP address of the loopback adapter, 127.0.0.1. Additional IP addresses appear for each IP Address on the computer
3. Change the TCP Port field from 1433 to another non-standard port or leave the TCP Port field empty and set the TCP Dynamic Ports value to 0 to enable dynamic port assignment and then click OK.
4. In the console pane, click SQL Server Services.
5. In the details pane, right-click SQL Server () and then click Restart, to stop and restart SQL Server.

### **Impact:**

Changing the default port will force DAC (Default Administrator Connection) to listen on a random port. Also, it might make benign applications, such as application firewalls, require special configuration.

### **References:**

1. <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/308091>
2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms177440\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms177440(v=sql.105).aspx)

3. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms177440\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms177440(v=sql.100).aspx)

## *2.13 Set the 'Hide Instance' option to 'Yes' for Production SQL Server instances (Scored)*

### **Profile Applicability:**

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

### **Description:**

SQL Server instances within production environments should be designated as hidden to prevent advertisement by the SQL Server Browser service.

### **Rationale:**

Designating production SQL Server instances as hidden leads to a more secure installation because they cannot be enumerated.

### **Audit:**

1. In SQL Server Configuration Manager, expand SQL Server Network Configuration, right-click Protocols for <server instance>, and then select Properties.
2. On the Flags tab, in the Hide Instance box, select Yes, and then click OK to close the dialog box. The change takes effect immediately for new connections.

### **Remediation:**

1. In SQL Server Configuration Manager, expand SQL Server Network Configuration, right-click Protocols for <server instance>, and then select Properties.
2. On the Flags tab, in the Hide Instance box, select Yes, and then click OK to close the dialog box. The change takes effect immediately for new connections.

### **References:**

1. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms179327\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms179327(v=sql.105).aspx)
2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms179327\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms179327(v=sql.100).aspx)

## *2.14 Disable the 'sa' Login Account (Scored)*

### **Profile Applicability:**

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

**Description:**

The `sa` account is a widely known and often widely used SQL Server account with `sysadmin` privileges.

**Rationale:**

Enforcing this control reduces the probability of an attacker executing brute force attacks against a well-known principal.

**Audit:**

Use the following syntax to determine if the `sa` account is disabled.

```
SELECT name, is_disabled
FROM sys.server_principals
WHERE sid = 0x01;
```

An `is_disabled` value of 1 indicates the account is currently disabled.

**Remediation:**

Execute the following query:

```
ALTER LOGIN sa DISABLE;
```

**Impact:**

It is not a good security practice to code applications or scripts to use the `sa` account. However, if this has been done disabling the `sa` account will prevent scripts and applications for authenticating to the database server and executing required tasks or functions.

**References:**

1. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms188786\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms188786(v=sql.100).aspx)
2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms188786\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms188786(v=sql.105).aspx)
3. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms189828\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms189828(v=sql.100).aspx)
4. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms189828\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms189828(v=sql.105).aspx)

## 2.15 Rename the 'sa' Login Account (Scored)

**Profile Applicability:**

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

**Description:**

The sa account is a widely known and often widely used SQL Server account with sysadmin privileges.

**Rationale:**

It is more difficult to launch password-guessing and brute-force attacks against the sa account if the username is not known.

**Audit:**

Use the following syntax to determine if the sa account is renamed.

```
SELECT name
FROM sys.server_principals
WHERE sid = 0x01;
```

A name of sa indicates the account has not been renamed.

**Remediation:**

Replace the different\_user value within the below syntax and execute rename the sa login.

```
ALTER LOGIN sa WITH NAME = different_user;
```

**Impact:**

It is not a good security practice to code applications or scripts to use the sa account. However, if this has been done renaming the sa account will prevent scripts and applications for authenticating to the database server and executing required tasks or functions.

**References:**

1. <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms144284.aspx>

### ***3 Extended Stored Procedures***

Extended stored procedures are to be removed in a future version of SQL Server. Consider using CLR Integration instead. The following extended stored procedures should not be used by any application or maintenance script. Do not attempt to remove or assign DENY



rule to any of these stored procedures. Doing so may result in an unsupported installation of SQL Server 2008.

### *3.1 Revoke Execute on 'xp\_availablemedia' to PUBLIC (Scored)*

#### **Profile Applicability:**

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

#### **Description:**

Lists all available storage devices that may be written to.

#### **Rationale:**

Ensuring this procedure is disabled will prevent an attacker from viewing local available drives for directory and file enumeration. This procedure is currently leveraged by several automated SQL Injection tools.

#### **Audit:**

The following steps can be used to audit using SQL Server Management Studio:

1. In Object Explorer, navigate to the SQL Server instance and expand the path: Databases\System Databases\master\Programmability\Extended Stored Procedures\System Extended Stored Procedures
2. Locate xp\_availablemedia, right click and select Properties
3. Select the Permissions tab
4. If the 'public' entry does not exist within the Users or Roles listing the server is in compliance with the recommendation and you can halt further steps. If the 'public' entry does exist proceed to step 5
5. Select the 'public' entry within the Users or Roles listing
6. If the Grant checkbox for the Execute permission is checked the Public role maintains Execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

The following steps can be used to audit using Transact-SQL:

```
select OBJECT_NAME(major_id) as 'extended_procedure', permission_name, 'PUBLIC' as  
'to_principal' from sys.database_permissions where major_id =  
OBJECT_ID('xp_availablemedia') AND [type] = 'EX' AND grantee_principal_id = 0
```

Any record returned indicates the public role maintains execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

#### **Remediation:**

Revoke use by all general users on the SQL Server machine:

```
REVOKE EXECUTE ON xp_availablemedia TO PUBLIC;
```

Note: Server logins within the sysadmin role will retain use of this procedure.

## References:

1. No references available as this is an undocumented extended stored procedure.

## 3.2 Set the 'xp\_cmdshell' option to disabled (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

### Description:

The xp\_cmdshell procedure allows an authenticated SQL Server user to execute operating-system command shell commands and return results as rows within the SQL client.

### Rationale:

xp\_cmdshell is commonly used by attackers to read or write data to/from the underlying Operating System of a database server.

### Audit:

Run the following code snippet to determine if the xp\_cmdshell system stored procedure is enabled:

```
EXECUTE sp_configure 'show advanced options',1;
RECONFIGURE WITH OVERRIDE;
EXECUTE sp_configure 'xp_cmdshell';
```

A run value of 0 indicates that the xp\_cmdshell option is disabled. If the option is enabled, run the following code snippet to disable this option:

```
EXECUTE sp_configure 'show advanced options',1;
RECONFIGURE WITH OVERRIDE;
EXECUTE sp_configure 'xp_cmdshell',0;
RECONFIGURE WITH OVERRIDE;
```

## Remediation:

Run the following T-SQL command:

```
EXECUTE sp_configure 'show advanced options', 1;  
RECONFIGURE;  
EXECUTE sp_configure 'xp_cmdshell', 0;  
RECONFIGURE; GO EXECUTE sp_configure 'show advanced options', 0;  
RECONFIGURE;
```

## References:

1. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms175046\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms175046(v=sql.105).aspx)
2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms175046\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms175046(v=sql.100).aspx)
3. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms190693\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms190693(v=sql.105).aspx)
4. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms190693\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms190693(v=sql.100).aspx)

### 3.3 Revoke Execute on 'xp\_dirtree' to PUBLIC (Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

#### Description:

Returns a result set of the directory tree for a given directory path.

#### Rationale:

Ensuring this procedure is disabled will prevent an attacker from performing directory enumeration and listing files and folders to read or write data to / from. This procedure is currently leveraged by several automated SQL Injection tools.

#### Audit:

The following steps can be used to audit using SQL Server Management Studio:

1. In Object Explorer, navigate to the SQL Server instance and expand the path: Databases\System Databases\master\Programmability\Extended Stored Procedures\System Extended Stored Procedures
2. Locate xp\_dirtree, right click and select Properties
3. Select the Permissions tab
4. If the 'public' entry does not exist within the Users or Roles listing the server is in compliance with the recommendation and you can halt further steps. If the 'public' entry does exist proceed to step 5

5. Select the 'public' entry within the Users or Roles listing
6. If the Grant checkbox for the Execute permission is checked the Public role maintains Execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

The following steps can be used to audit using Transact-SQL:

```
select OBJECT_NAME(major_id) as 'extended_procedure', permission_name, 'PUBLIC' as  
'to_principal' from sys.database_permissions where major_id = OBJECT_ID('xp_dirtree')  
AND [type] = 'EX' AND grantee_principal_id = 0
```

Any record returned indicates the public role maintains execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

### **Remediation:**

Revoke use by all general users on the SQL Server machine:

```
REVOKE EXECUTE ON xp_dirtree TO PUBLIC;
```

Note: Server logins within the sysadmin role will retain use of this procedure.

## ***3.4 Revoke Execute on 'xp\_enumgroups' to PUBLIC (Scored)***

### **Profile Applicability:**

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

### **Description:**

This procedure provides a list of local Microsoft Windows groups or a list of global groups that are defined in a specified Windows machine.

### **Rationale:**

Ensuring this procedure is disabled will limit an attacker's ability to identify the Windows groups present on the SQL Server machine. This procedure is currently leveraged by several automated SQL Injection tools.

### **Audit:**

The following steps can be used to audit using SQL Server Management Studio:

1. In Object Explorer, navigate to the SQL Server instance and expand the path:  
Databases\System Databases\master\Programmability\Extended Stored  
Procedures\System Extended Stored Procedures

2. Locate `xp_enumgroups`, right click and select Properties
3. Select the Permissions tab
4. If the 'public' entry does not exist within the Users or Roles listing the server is in compliance with the recommendation and you can halt further steps. If the 'public' entry does exist proceed to step 5
5. Select the 'public' entry within the Users or Roles listing
6. If the Grant checkbox for the Execute permission is checked the Public role maintains Execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

The following steps can be used to audit using Transact-SQL:

```
select OBJECT_NAME(major_id) as 'extended_procedure', permission_name, 'PUBLIC' as
'to_principal' from sys.database_permissions where major_id =
OBJECT_ID('xp_enumgroups') AND [type] = 'EX' AND grantee_principal_id = 0
```

Any record returned indicates the public role maintains execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

### Remediation:

Revoke use by all general users on the SQL Server machine:

```
REVOKE EXECUTE ON xp_enumgroups to PUBLIC;
```

Note: Server logins within the sysadmin role will retain use of this procedure.

## 3.5 Revoke Execute on 'xp\_fixeddrives' to PUBLIC (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

### Description:

Returns a list of all hard drives on the machine and the space free in megabytes for each drive.

### Rationale:

Ensuring this procedure is disabled will prevent an attacker from viewing local available drives for directory and file enumeration.

### Audit:

The following steps can be used to audit using SQL Server Management Studio:

1. In Object Explorer, navigate to the SQL Server instance and expand the path:  
Databases\System Databases\master\Programmability\Extended Stored Procedures\System Extended Stored Procedures
2. Locate `xp_fixeddrives`, right click and select Properties
3. Select the Permissions tab
4. If the 'public' entry does not exist within the Users or Roles listing the server is in compliance with the recommendation and you can halt further steps. If the 'public' entry does exist proceed to step 5
5. Select the 'public' entry within the Users or Roles listing
6. If the Grant checkbox for the Execute permission is checked the Public role maintains Execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

The following steps can be used to audit using Transact-SQL:

```
select OBJECT_NAME(major_id) as 'extended_procedure', permission_name, 'PUBLIC' as 'to_principal' from sys.database_permissions where major_id = OBJECT_ID('xp_fixeddrives') AND [type] = 'EX' AND grantee_principal_id = 0
```

Any record returned indicates the public role maintains execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

### **Remediation:**

Revoke use by all general users on the SQL Server machine:

```
REVOKE EXECUTE ON xp_fixeddrives TO PUBLIC;
```

Note: Server logins within the sysadmin role will retain use of this procedure.

## ***3.6 Revoke Execute on 'xp\_servicecontrol' to PUBLIC (Scored)***

### **Profile Applicability:**

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

### **Description:**

Can be used to start and stop windows services running on the SQL Server machine.

### **Rationale:**

Can be used by a remote attacker to shutdown Windows services associated with Anti-virus products or firewalls to loosen the security posture of a database server.

## Audit:

The following steps can be used to audit using SQL Server Management Studio:

1. In Object Explorer, navigate to the SQL Server instance and expand the path: Databases\System Databases\master\Programmability\Extended Stored Procedures\System Extended Stored Procedures
2. Locate `xp_servicecontrol`, right click and select Properties
3. Select the Permissions tab
4. If the 'public' entry does not exist within the Users or Roles listing the server is in compliance with the recommendation and you can halt further steps. If the 'public' entry does exist proceed to step 5
5. Select the 'public' entry within the Users or Roles listing
6. If the Grant checkbox for the Execute permission is checked the Public role maintains Execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

The following steps can be used to audit using Transact-SQL:

```
select OBJECT_NAME(major_id) as 'extended_procedure', permission_name, 'PUBLIC' as  
'to_principal' from sys.database_permissions where major_id =  
OBJECT_ID('xp_servicecontrol') AND [type] = 'EX' AND grantee_principal_id = 0
```

Any record returned indicates the public role maintains execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

## Remediation:

Revoke use by all general us

```
REVOKE EXECUTE ON xp_servicecontrol TO PUBLIC;
```

Note: Server logins within the sysadmin role will retain use of this procedure

## References:

1. No references available as this is an undocumented extended stored procedure.

### *3.7 Revoke Execute on 'xp\_subdirs' to PUBLIC (Scored)*

## Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

## Description:

Lists all subdirectories listed for a given folder path.

### **Rationale:**

Ensuring this procedure is disabled will prevent an attacker from performing directory enumeration and listing all subdirectories on the file system for a given directory path. This is information that an attacker would be able to make use of to determine where key OS files are located.

### **Audit:**

The following steps can be used to audit using SQL Server Management Studio:

1. In Object Explorer, navigate to the SQL Server instance and expand the path:  
Databases\System Databases\master\Programmability\Extended Stored Procedures\System Extended Stored Procedures
2. Locate `xp_subdirs`, right click and select Properties
3. Select the Permissions tab
4. If the 'public' entry does not exist within the Users or Roles listing the server is in compliance with the recommendation and you can halt further steps. If the 'public' entry does exist proceed to step 5
5. Select the 'public' entry within the Users or Roles listing
6. If the Grant checkbox for the Execute permission is checked the Public role maintains Execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

The following steps can be used to audit using Transact-SQL:

```
select OBJECT_NAME(major_id) as 'extended_procedure', permission_name, 'PUBLIC' as  
'to_principal' from sys.database_permissions where major_id = OBJECT_ID('xp_subdirs')  
AND [type] = 'EX' AND grantee_principal_id = 0
```

Any record returned indicates the public role maintains execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

### **Remediation:**

Revoke use by all general users on the SQL Server machine:

```
REVOKE EXECUTE ON xp_subdirs TO PUBLIC;
```

Note: Server logins within the sysadmin role will retain use of this procedure.

### **References:**

1. No references available as this is an undocumented extended stored procedure.



### 3.8 Revoke Execute on 'xp\_regaddmultistring' to PUBLIC (Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

#### Description:

Adds multiple strings to the server's registry.

#### Rationale:

Ensuring this procedure is disabled will prevent a SQL Server user from writing to the Windows registry via SQL Server.

#### Audit:

The following steps can be used to audit using SQL Server Management Studio:

1. In Object Explorer, navigate to the SQL Server instance and expand the path: Databases\System Databases\master\Programmability\Extended Stored Procedures\System Extended Stored Procedures
2. Locate xp\_regaddmdmultistring, right click and select Properties
3. Select the Permissions tab
4. If the 'public' entry does not exist within the Users or Roles listing the server is in compliance with the recommendation and you can halt further steps. If the 'public' entry does exist proceed to step 5
5. Select the 'public' entry within the Users or Roles listing
6. If the Grant checkbox for the Execute permission is checked the Public role maintains Execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

The following steps can be used to audit using Transact-SQL:

```
select OBJECT_NAME(major_id) as 'extended_procedure', permission_name, 'PUBLIC' as  
'to_principal' from sys.database_permissions where major_id =  
OBJECT_ID('xp_regaddmultistring') AND [type] = 'EX' AND grantee_principal_id = 0
```

Any record returned indicates the public role maintains execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

#### Remediation:

Revoke use by all general users on the SQL Server machine:

```
REVOKE EXECUTE ON xp_regaddmultistring TO PUBLIC;
```

Note: Server logins within the sysadmin role will retain use of this procedure.

## References:

1. This stored procedure is undocumented and thus no official reference exists.

## 3.9 Revoke Execute on 'xp\_regdeletekey' to PUBLIC (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

### Description:

Deletes registry keys from the server's registry.

### Rationale:

Ensuring this procedure is disabled will prevent a SQL Server user from deleting values from the Windows registry via SQL Server.

### Audit:

The following steps can be used to audit using SQL Server Management Studio:

1. In Object Explorer, navigate to the SQL Server instance and expand the path: Databases\System Databases\master\Programmability\Extended Stored Procedures\System Extended Stored Procedures
2. Locate xp\_regdeletekey, right click and select Properties
3. Select the Permissions tab
4. If the 'public' entry does not exist within the Users or Roles listing the server is in compliance with the recommendation and you can halt further steps. If the 'public' entry does exist proceed to step 5
5. Select the 'public' entry within the Users or Roles listing
6. If the Grant checkbox for the Execute permission is checked the Public role maintains Execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

The following steps can be used to audit using Transact-SQL:

```
select OBJECT_NAME(major_id) as 'extended_procedure', permission_name, 'PUBLIC' as  
'to_principal' from sys.database_permissions where major_id =  
OBJECT_ID('xp_regdeletekey') AND [type] = 'EX' AND grantee_principal_id = 0
```

Any record returned indicates the public role maintains execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

## Remediation:

Revoke use by all general users on the SQL Server machine:

```
REVOKE EXECUTE ON xp_regdeletekey TO PUBLIC;
```

Note: Server logins within the sysadmin role will retain use of this procedure.

## References:

1. This stored procedure is undocumented and thus no official reference exists.

### *3.10 Revoke Execute on 'xp\_regdeletevalue' to PUBLIC (Scored)*

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

#### Description:

Deletes values from the server's registry.

#### Rationale:

Ensuring this procedure is disabled will prevent a SQL Server user from deleting values from the Windows registry via SQL Server.

#### Audit:

The following steps can be used to audit using SQL Server Management Studio:

1. In Object Explorer, navigate to the SQL Server instance and expand the path:  
Databases\System Databases\master\Programmability\Extended Stored Procedures\System Extended Stored Procedures
2. Locate `xp_regdeletevalue`, right click and select Properties
3. Select the Permissions tab
4. If the 'public' entry does not exist within the Users or Roles listing the server is in compliance with the recommendation and you can halt further steps. If the 'public' entry does exist proceed to step 5
5. Select the 'public' entry within the Users or Roles listing
6. If the Grant checkbox for the Execute permission is checked the Public role maintains Execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

The following steps can be used to audit using Transact-SQL:

```
select OBJECT_NAME(major_id) as 'extended_procedure', permission_name, 'PUBLIC' as  
'to_principal' from sys.database_permissions where major_id =  
OBJECT_ID('xp_regdeletevalue') AND [type] = 'EX' AND grantee_principal_id = 0
```

Any record returned indicates the public role maintains execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

### **Remediation:**

Revoke use by all general users on the SQL Server machine:

```
REVOKE EXECUTE ON xp_regdeletevalue TO PUBLIC;
```

Note: Server logins within the sysadmin role will retain use of this procedure.

### **References:**

1. This stored procedure is undocumented and thus no official reference exists.

### *3.11 Revoke Execute on 'xp\_regenumvalues' to PUBLIC (Scored)*

#### **Profile Applicability:**

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

#### **Description:**

Enumerates a set of values from a provided registry path.

#### **Rationale:**

Ensuring this procedure is disabled will prevent a SQL Server user from enumerating and reading registry values.

#### **Audit:**

The following steps can be used to audit using SQL Server Management Studio:

1. In Object Explorer, navigate to the SQL Server instance and expand the path:  
Databases\System Databases\master\Programmability\Extended Stored Procedures\System Extended Stored Procedures
2. Locate `xp_regenumvalues`, right click and select Properties
3. Select the Permissions tab
4. If the 'public' entry does not exist within the Users or Roles listing the server is in compliance with the recommendation and you can halt further steps. If the 'public' entry does exist proceed to step 5

5. Select the 'public' entry within the Users or Roles listing
6. If the Grant checkbox for the Execute permission is checked the Public role maintains Execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

The following steps can be used to audit using Transact-SQL:

```
select OBJECT_NAME(major_id) as 'extended_procedure', permission_name, 'PUBLIC' as  
'to_principal' from sys.database_permissions where major_id =  
OBJECT_ID('xp_regenumvalues') AND [type] = 'EX' AND grantee_principal_id = 0
```

Any record returned indicates the public role maintains execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

### **Remediation:**

Revoke use by all general users on the SQL Server machine:

```
REVOKE EXECUTE ON xp_regenumvalues TO PUBLIC;
```

Note: Server logins within the sysadmin role will retain use of this procedure.

### **References:**

1. This stored procedure is undocumented and thus no official reference exists.

## ***3.12 Revoke Execute on 'xp\_regremovemultistring' to PUBLIC (Scored)***

### **Profile Applicability:**

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

### **Description:**

Removes multiple strings from the server's registry.

### **Rationale:**

Ensuring this procedure is disabled will prevent a SQL Server user from deleting batch values from the Windows registry via SQL Server.

### **Audit:**

The following steps can be used to audit using SQL Server Management Studio:

1. In Object Explorer, navigate to the SQL Server instance and expand the path:  
Databases\System Databases\master\Programmability\Extended Stored Procedures\System Extended Stored Procedures
2. Locate `xp_regremovemultistring`, right click and select Properties
3. Select the Permissions tab
4. If the 'public' entry does not exist within the Users or Roles listing the server is in compliance with the recommendation and you can halt further steps. If the 'public' entry does exist proceed to step 5
5. Select the 'public' entry within the Users or Roles listing
6. If the Grant checkbox for the Execute permission is checked the Public role maintains Execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

The following steps can be used to audit using Transact-SQL:

```
select OBJECT_NAME(major_id) as 'extended_procedure', permission_name, 'PUBLIC' as
'to_principal' from sys.database_permissions where major_id =
OBJECT_ID('xp_regremovemultistring') AND [type] = 'EX' AND grantee_principal_id = 0
```

Any record returned indicates the public role maintains execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

### Remediation:

Revoke use by all general users on the SQL Server machine:

```
REVOKE EXECUTE ON xp_regremovemultistring TO PUBLIC;
```

Note: Server logins within the sysadmin role will retain use of this procedure.

### References:

1. This stored procedure is undocumented and thus no official reference exists.

### 3.13 Revoke Execute on 'xp\_regwrite' to PUBLIC (Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

#### Description:

Writes key values to the server's registry.

#### Rationale:

Ensuring this procedure is disabled will prevent a SQL Server user from writing to the Windows registry via SQL Server.

### **Audit:**

The following steps can be used to audit using SQL Server Management Studio:

1. In Object Explorer, navigate to the SQL Server instance and expand the path:  
Databases\System Databases\master\Programmability\Extended Stored Procedures\System Extended Stored Procedures
2. Locate `xp_regwrite`, right click and select Properties
3. Select the Permissions tab
4. If the 'public' entry does not exist within the Users or Roles listing the server is in compliance with the recommendation and you can halt further steps. If the 'public' entry does exist proceed to step 5
5. Select the 'public' entry within the Users or Roles listing
6. If the Grant checkbox for the Execute permission is checked the Public role maintains Execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

The following steps can be used to audit using Transact-SQL:

```
select OBJECT_NAME(major_id) as 'extended_procedure', permission_name, 'PUBLIC' as  
'to_principal' from sys.database_permissions where major_id = OBJECT_ID('xp_regwrite')  
AND [type] = 'EX' AND grantee_principal_id = 0
```

Any record returned indicates the public role maintains execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

### **Remediation:**

Revoke use by all general users on the SQL Server machine:

```
REVOKE EXECUTE ON xp_regwrite TO PUBLIC;
```

Note: Server logins within the sysadmin role will retain use of this procedure.

### **References:**

1. This stored procedure is undocumented and thus no official reference exists.

### ***3.14 Revoke Execute on 'xp\_regread' to PUBLIC (Scored)***

#### **Profile Applicability:**

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

**Description:**

Reads key values from the server's registry.

**Rationale:**

Ensuring this procedure is disabled will prevent a SQL Server user from enumerating and reading registry values. This procedure is leveraged by several automated SQL injection tools.

**Audit:**

The following steps can be used to audit using SQL Server Management Studio:

1. In Object Explorer, navigate to the SQL Server instance and expand the path:  
Databases\System Databases\master\Programmability\Extended Stored Procedures\System Extended Stored Procedures
2. Locate xp\_regread, right click and select Properties
3. Select the Permissions tab
4. If the 'public' entry does not exist within the Users or Roles listing the server is in compliance with the recommendation and you can halt further steps. If the 'public' entry does exist proceed to step 5
5. Select the 'public' entry within the Users or Roles listing
6. If the Grant checkbox for the Execute permission is checked the Public role maintains Execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

The following steps can be used to audit using Transact-SQL:

```
select OBJECT_NAME(major_id) as 'extended_procedure', permission_name, 'PUBLIC' as  
'to_principal' from sys.database_permissions where major_id = OBJECT_ID('xp_regread')  
AND [type] = 'EX' AND grantee_principal_id = 0
```

Any record returned indicates the public role maintains execute permission on the procedure and the listed remediation procedure should be followed.

**Remediation:**

Revoke use by all general users on the SQL Server machine:

```
REVOKE EXECUTE ON xp_regread TO PUBLIC;
```

Note: Server logins within the sysadmin role will retain use of this procedure.

**References:**



1. This stored procedure is undocumented and thus no official reference exists.

## **4 Authentication and Authorization**

[This space intentionally left blank]

### **4.1 Set The 'Server Authentication' Property To Windows Authentication mode (Scored)**

#### **Profile Applicability:**

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

#### **Description:**

Uses Windows Authentication to validate attempted connections.

#### **Rationale:**

Windows provides a more robust authentication mechanism than SQL Server authentication.

#### **Audit:**

Execute the following syntax:

```
xp_loginconfig 'login mode';
```

A config\_value of Windows NT Authentication indicates the Server Authentication property is set to Windows Authentication mode

#### **Remediation:**

Perform the following steps:

1. Open SQL Server Management Studio.
2. Open the Object Explorer tab and connect to the target database instance.
3. Right click the instance name and select Properties.
4. Select the Security page from the left menu.
5. Set the Server authentication setting to Windows Authentication mode.

#### **References:**

1. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms188470\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms188470(v=sql.100).aspx)

2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms188470\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms188470(v=sql.105).aspx)

## 4.2 Revoke CONNECT permissions on the 'guest user' within all SQL Server databases excluding the master, msdb and tempdb (Scored)

### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

### Description:

Removes the right of guest users to connect to SQL Server user databases.

### Rationale:

A login assumes the identity of the guest user when a login has access to SQL Server but does not have access to a database through its own account and the database has a guest user account. Revoking the connect permission for the guest user will ensure that a login is not able to access database information without explicit access to do so.

### Audit:

Run the following code snippet in each database in the instance to determine if the guest user exists.

```
SELECT DB_NAME(), name
FROM sys.database_principals
WHERE name = 'guest'
```

### Remediation:

The following code snippet revokes CONNECT permissions from the guest user in a database:

```
REVOKE CONNECT FROM guest;
```

### References:

1. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb402861\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb402861(v=sql.105).aspx)
2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb402861\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb402861(v=sql.100).aspx)

### 4.3 Drop Orphaned Users From SQL Server Databases (Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

#### Description:

A database user for which the corresponding SQL Server login is undefined or is incorrectly defined on a server instance cannot log in to the instance and is referred to as orphaned and should be removed.

#### Rationale:

Orphan users should be removed to avoid potential misuse of those broken users in any way.

#### Audit:

Run the following T-SQL query to identify orphan users:

```
EXEC sp_change_users_login @Action='Report';
```

#### Remediation:

Run the following T-SQL query to remove an orphan user:

```
DROP USER <username>;
```

#### References:

1. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms175475\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms175475(v=sql.100).aspx)
2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms175475\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms175475(v=sql.105).aspx)

## 5 Password Policies

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### 5.1 Set the 'MUST\_CHANGE' Option to ON for All SQL Authenticated Logins (Not Scored)

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

**Description:**

SQL Server will prompt for an updated password the first time the altered login is used.

**Rationale:**

Enforcing password change will prevent the account administrators or anyone accessing the initial password to misuse the SQL login created without being noticed.

**Audit:**

1. Open SQL Server Management Studio.
2. Open Object Explorer and connect to the target instance.
3. Navigate to the Logins tab in Object Explorer and expand. Right click on the desired login and select Properties.
4. Verify the User must change password at next login checkbox is checked

**Remediation:**

Set the MUST\_CHANGE option for SQL Authenticated logins

```
ALTER LOGIN login_name WITH PASSWORD = password_value MUST_CHANGE;
```

**Impact:**

CHECK\_EXPIRATION and CHECK\_POLICY options must both be ON

**References:**

1. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms189828\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms189828(v=sql.105).aspx)
2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms189828\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms189828(v=sql.100).aspx)

*5.2 Set the 'CHECK\_EXPIRATION' Option to ON for All SQL Authenticated Logins Within the Sysadmin Role (Scored)*

**Profile Applicability:**

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

**Description:**

Applies the same password expiration policy used in Windows to passwords used inside SQL Server.

**Rationale:**

Ensuring SQL logins comply with the secure password policy applied by the Windows Server Benchmark will ensure the passwords for SQL logins with Sysadmin privileges are changed on a frequent basis to help prevent compromise via a brute force attack.

**Audit:**

```
SELECT SQLLoginName = sp.name, PasswordExpirationEnforced =  
CAST(sl.is_expiration_checked AS BIT) FROM sys.server_principals sp JOIN  
sys.sql_logins AS sl ON sl.principal_id = sp.principal_id WHERE sp.type_desc =  
'SQL_LOGIN';
```

**Remediation:**

```
ALTER LOGIN [login_name] WITH CHECK_EXPIRATION = ON;
```

**References:**

1. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms161959\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms161959(v=sql.105).aspx)
2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms161959\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms161959(v=sql.100).aspx)

### *5.3 Set the 'CHECK\_POLICY' Option to ON for All SQL Authenticated Logins (Scored)*

**Profile Applicability:**

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

**Description:**

Applies the same password complexity policy used in Windows to passwords used inside SQL Server.

**Rationale:**

Ensuring SQL logins comply with the secure password policy applied by the Windows Server Benchmark will ensure SQL logins are not blank and cannot be easily compromised via brute force attack.

**Audit:**

Use the following code snippet to determine the SQL Logins and if their password complexity is enforced.

```
SELECT SQLLoginName = sp.name,  
       PasswordPolicyEnforced = CAST(sl.is_policy_checked AS BIT)  
FROM sys.server_principals sp  
JOIN sys.sql_logins AS sl ON sl.principal_id = sp.principal_id  
WHERE sp.type_desc = 'SQL_LOGIN';
```

A PasswordPolicyEnforced value of 0 indicates that the 'Check\_Policy' option is OFF

### Remediation:

```
ALTER LOGIN [login_name] WITH CHECK_POLICY = ON;
```

### References:

1. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms161959\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms161959(v=sql.105).aspx)
2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms161959\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms161959(v=sql.100).aspx)

## 6 Auditing and Logging

SQL Server audit and logging configuration settings.

### *6.1 Set the 'Maximum number of error log files' setting to greater than or equal to 12 (Not Scored)*

#### Profile Applicability:

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

#### Description:

SQL Server errorlog files must be protected from loss. The log files must be backed up before they are overwritten.

#### Rationale:

The SQL Server errorlog contains important information about major server events and login attempt information as well.

#### Audit:

1. Open SQL Server Management Studio.
2. Open Object Explorer and connect to the target instance.
3. Navigate to the Management tab in Object Explorer and expand. Right click on the SQL Server Logs file and select Configure.

4. Verify the Limit the number of error log files before they are recycled checkbox is checked
5. Verify the Maximum number of error log files is greater than or equal to 12

**Remediation:**

Adjust the number of logs to prevent data loss. The default value of 6 may be insufficient for a production environment.

1. Open SQL Server Management Studio.
2. Open Object Explorer and connect to the target instance.
3. Navigate to the Management tab in Object Explorer and expand. Right click on the SQL Server Logs file and select Configure
4. Check the Limit the number of error log files before they are recycled
5. Set the Maximum number of error log files to greater than or equal to 12

**References:**

1. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms177285\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms177285(v=sql.105).aspx)
2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms177285\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms177285(v=sql.100).aspx)

## *6.2 Set the 'Default Trace Enabled' Server Configuration Option to 1 (Scored)*

**Profile Applicability:**

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

**Description:**

The default trace provides audit logging of database activity including account creations, privilege elevation and execution of DBCC commands.

**Rationale:**

Default trace provides valuable audit information regarding security-related activities on the server.

**Audit:**

Run the following T-SQL command:

```
SELECT name,  
       CAST(value as int) as value_configured,
```

```
CAST(value_in_use as int) as value_in_use
FROM sys.configurations
WHERE name = 'Default trace enabled';
```

Both value columns must show 1.

### **Remediation:**

Run the following T-SQL command:

```
EXECUTE sp_configure 'show advanced options', 1;
RECONFIGURE;
EXECUTE sp_configure 'Default trace enabled', 1;
RECONFIGURE;
GO
EXECUTE sp_configure 'show advanced options', 0;
RECONFIGURE;
```

### **References:**

1. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms175513\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms175513(v=sql.105).aspx)
2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms175513\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms175513(v=sql.100).aspx)

## *6.3 Set 'Login Auditing' to Both failed and successful logins (Not Scored)*

### **Profile Applicability:**

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

### **Description:**

Setting logs both successful and failed login SQL Server authentication attempts.

### **Rationale:**

Logging successful and failed logins provides key information that can be used to detect\confirm password guessing attacks. Further, logging successful login attempts can be used to confirm server access during forensic investigations.

### **Audit:**

```
XP_loginconfig 'audit level';
```



A config\_value of 'all' indicates a server login auditing setting of 'Both failed and successful logins'.

### **Remediation:**

Perform the following steps to set the level of auditing:

1. Open SQL Server Management Studio.
2. Right click the target instance and select Properties and navigate to the Security tab.
3. Select the option `Both failed and successful logins` under the "Login Auditing" section and click OK.
4. Restart the SQL Server instance.

### **References:**

1. [http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms188470\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms188470(v=sql.105).aspx)
2. [http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms188470\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms188470(v=sql.100).aspx)

## ***7 Application Development***

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### ***7.1 Sanitize Database and Application User Input (Not Scored)***

#### **Profile Applicability:**

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

#### **Description:**

Always validate user input received from a database client or application by testing type, length, format, and range prior to transmitting it to the database server.

#### **Rationale:**

Sanitizing user input drastically minimizes risk of SQL injection.

#### **Audit:**

Check with the application teams to ensure any database interaction is through the use of stored procedures and not dynamic SQL. Revoke any INSERT, UPDATE, or DELETE privileges to users so that modifications to data must be done through stored procedures. Verify that there's no SQL query in the application code produced by string concatenation.

#### **Remediation:**

The following steps can be taken to remediate SQL injection vulnerabilities:

- Review TSQL and application code for SQL Injection
- Only permit minimally privileged accounts to send user input to the server
- Minimize the risk of SQL injection attack by using parameterized commands and stored procedures
- Reject user input containing binary data, escape sequences, and comment characters
- Always validate user input and do not use it directly to build SQL statements

**Impact:**

Sanitize user input may require changes to application code or database object syntax. These changes can require applications or databases to be taken temporarily off-line. Any change to TSQL or application code should be thoroughly tested in testing environment before production implementation.

**References:**

1. [https://www.owasp.org/index.php/SQL\\_Injection](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/SQL_Injection)
2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms161953\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms161953(v=sql.100).aspx)
3. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms161953\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms161953(v=sql.105).aspx)

## *7.2 Set the 'CLR Assembly Permission Set' to SAFE\_ACCESS for All CLR Assemblies (Scored)*

**Profile Applicability:**

- Level 1 - SQL Server 2008.x

**Description:**

Setting CLR Assembly Permission Sets to SAFE\_ACCESS will prevent assemblies from accessing external system resources such as files, the network, environment variables, or the registry.

**Rationale:**

Assemblies with EXTERNAL\_ACCESS or UNSAFE permission sets can be used to access sensitive areas of the operating system, steal and/or transmit data and alter the state and other protection measures of the underlying Windows Operating System.

**Audit:**

Execute the following SQL statement:

```
SELECT name,  
       permission_set_desc  
FROM sys.assemblies  
where is_user_defined = 1;
```

All the returned assemblies should show SAFE\_ACCESS in the permission\_set\_desc column.

### **Remediation:**

```
ALTER ASSEMBLY assembly_name WITH PERMISSION_SET = SAFE;
```

### **Impact:**

The remediation measure should first be tested within a test environment prior to production to ensure the assembly still functions as designed with SAFE permission setting

### **References:**

1. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms345101\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms345101(v=sql.105).aspx)
2. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms189790\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms189790(v=sql.100).aspx)
3. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms189790\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms189790(v=sql.105).aspx)
4. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms345101\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms345101(v=sql.100).aspx)
5. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms186711\(v=sql.100\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms186711(v=sql.100).aspx)
6. [http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms186711\(v=sql.105\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms186711(v=sql.105).aspx)

# Appendix: Change History

Date	Version	Changes for this version
11-15-2012	1.0.0	Initial release.