

# Vulnerability Assessment Report

12<sup>th</sup> August 2025

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## Problem Statement

You have been tasked with conducting a vulnerability assessment on a critical database server. The goal is to evaluate the system's access controls, identify potential threats and their associated risks, and then propose a comprehensive remediation strategy to secure the system and protect sensitive data from unauthorized access.

## System Description

The server hardware consists of a powerful CPU processor and 128GB of memory. It runs on the latest version of Linux operating system and hosts a MySQL database management system. It is configured with a stable network connection using IPv4 addresses and interacts with other servers on the network. Security measures include SSL/TLS encrypted connections.

## Scope

The scope of this vulnerability assessment relates to the current access controls of the system. The assessment will cover a period of three months, from June 2025 to August 2025. [NIST SP 800-30 Rev. 1](#) is used to guide the risk analysis of the information system.

## Purpose

The database server is a centralized computer system that stores and manages large amounts of data. The server is used to store customer, campaign, and analytic data that can later be analyzed to track performance and personalize marketing efforts. It is critical to secure the system because of its regular use for marketing operations.

## Risk Assessment

Threat source	Threat event	Likelihood	Severity	Risk
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<i>Hacker</i>	<i>Obtain sensitive information via exfiltration</i>	3	3	9
<i>Employee</i>	<i>Disrupt mission-critical operations</i>	2	3	6
<i>Customer</i>	<i>Alter/Delete critical information</i>	1	3	3

## Approach

Risks that were measured considered the data storage and management procedures of the business. Potential threat sources and events were determined using the likelihood of a security incident given the open access permissions of the information system. The severities of potential incidents were weighed against the impact on day-to-day operational needs.

## Remediation Strategy

Implementation of authentication, authorization, and auditing mechanisms to ensure that only authorized users access the database server. This includes using strong passwords, role-based access controls, and multi-factor authentication to limit user privileges. Encryption of data in motion using TLS instead of SSL. IP allow-listing to corporate offices to prevent random users from the internet from connecting to the database.