

How to Mitigate

Stay Safe

Patching

- Patches
 - Software 'fixes' for vulnerabilities in operating systems and applications
- Why Patch
 - Keep your system secure
 - Viruses and worms usually attack known vulnerabilities
 - Hackers can easily attack systems that have not been patched

Patching

- For Windows systems and Microsoft applications
 - Can be automatically downloaded and installed
 - For Windows, configure Automatic Updates program
 - Click Start -> Settings -> Control Panel -> Automatic Updates
 - Use Windows Update to find latest patches
 - Click Start -> All Programs -> Windows Update
 - Install manually from www.Microsoft.com
- For specific applications, visit vendor websites to check for updates
- Utilize websites showing the latest patches
 - <http://www.softwarepatch.com/>
- Monitor websites with vulnerability alerts
 - <http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/alerts/index.html>

Patching

- Linux

- Patches are also known as “packages”
- Package Managers
 - GUI used to keep OS and applications up to date
 - Used to install, uninstall, search for, or update packages
- Command Line interface (CLI)
 - Download the source for every out of date program, then compile and install
 - If a program had any dependencies, you have to hunt down the dependency
 - Use the “apt-get” command or “yum” depending on distro

- Unix

- Solaris
 - Command line (pkgadd, pkgrm, pkginfo)
- HP-UX
 - Software Package Builder (SPB) – provides both GUI and CLI

Patching

- Keep in mind when patching in high availability environments
 - Make sure patch is relevant
 - Keep patch level consistent on all servers
 - Test patches before applying to avoid the 'fix' breaking another business critical function
 - Have a backup plan in place
 - Back up your system prior to patching so you can restore if necessary

Anti-virus Software

- Anti-virus
 - Software that can detect and block malware before it infects your computer
 - Looks for patterns based on the signatures, or definitions, of known viruses
 - Must be kept up to date
 - New viruses appear daily therefore signature database must be updated on a regular basis
 - Use to scan your system either manually or automatically
 - Scan file system of the computer
 - Scan email attachments, downloaded documents, cds, usb drives, etc. before opening or using them
- Anti-virus software packages are discussed in the 'Threats and Vulnerabilities' module

Spyware

- Spyware
 - Malware installed on a system that collects information about users without their knowledge
 - Tracks users' Internet activity for marketing purposes
 - May use cookies in your Internet browser to track
 - May cause added CPU activity, disk usage and network traffic on a system
- Detect and remove
 - Anti-spyware programs
 - Stand alone or additions to anti-virus software
 - Provide real time protection or detect and remove existing spyware
 - Scans the windows registry and files and removes those that match signature files
 - Keep signature database up to date

Auditing

- Audit regularly
 - Setting up audit policies is critical to the security of an organization's assets (Remember policies set up in Windows and Unix Modules)
 - Helps you measure the adequacy and effectiveness of controls in place
- Auditable items
 - Users
 - Permissions, activities
 - Files and Objects
 - Accessibility
 - Manipulation
 - Integrity
 - Logs
 - Captures defined events and activity

Monitoring

- Monitor

- Systems can be monitored for all kinds of things provided logs are stored and accessible

Logs will show activities in regards to the following (**Logs capture events based on the policies set up in Windows and Unix Modules)

- Users
 - Violating security policies, attempting unauthorized access
- Files and Objects
 - Monitor access by unauthorized users

- Monitoring on a regular basis ensures confidentiality, integrity, availability and authenticity



Vulnerability Assessment

- Vulnerability

- *“A flaw or weakness in system security procedures, design, implementation, or internal controls that could be exercised (accidentally triggered or intentionally exploited) and result in a security breach or a violation of the system's security policy. “*

- National Institute of Standards and Technology

- Vulnerability Assessment

- Identify potential vulnerabilities and evaluate the effectiveness of various security controls implemented within the infrastructure
- Regularly run a network scan to identify infrastructure gap and non hardened devices
- Run a vulnerability scanner on a regular basis

Tools

- Vulnerability Scanners

- A tool that scans devices for vulnerabilities such as allowing unauthorized access to sensitive data, misconfigurations, default passwords not changed, etc.

- Types

- Host based
 - Tool scans an individual computer for vulnerabilities
- Network based
 - Tool scans network for vulnerabilities
- Database
 - Scans for vulnerabilities in the database server(s)

Tools

- Vulnerability Scanners

- Netstat

- This tool is used on the local host to identify its open ports
 - Command within Unix and Windows

- Superscan (Port Scanner)

- A freeware tool for Windows which will perform a UDP and TCP port scan
 - <http://www.mcafee.com/us/downloads/free-tools/superscan.aspx>

- Nessus

- Free for personal use in a limited “home” license
 - <http://www.tenable.com/products>

- Internet Security Scanner (ISS)

- A network security scanner that can be used for Windows
 - <http://its.virginia.edu/network/issdoc.html>

Tools

- Vulnerability Scanners (more)
 - Microsoft Baseline Security Analyzer (MBSA)
 - Evaluates a system's configuration and provides a report with specific recommendations to improve security. Also recommends missing hotfixes and configuration changes. This should be run regularly to check for new vulnerabilities.
 - <http://www.microsoft.com/download/en/details.aspx?id=19892>
 - RPCDump (rpcdump.exe)
 - This tool helps determine which RPC services have which ports open
 - Fport
 - A great tool from www.foundstone.com used to scan the system to see what is open
 - <http://www.mcafee.com/us/downloads/free-tools/fport.aspx>
 - Security Auditor's Research Assistant (SARA)
 - A tool derived from the infamous (at least in 1995) SATAN scanner
 - Last release date was May 2009 (<http://www-arc.com/sara/>)

Perform a Scan

- First, be certain you have permission to scan network or hosts
- Choose a tool
 - Discover your network devices (servers, firewalls, applications, etc.)
 - Know the IP address range you want to scan
 - Prioritize your assets
 - Critical to non-critical
 - Identify vulnerabilities
 - Run a scan using the tool
 - Analyze threats
 - You may choose to accept the risk rather than remediate a vulnerability due to a valid business reason
 - Remediate
 - Apply patches, turn off services, etc.
 - Eliminate your vulnerabilities
 - Run your scan again to make sure your vulnerabilities no longer exist

Perform a Scan

- Examples and 'how to'
 - Scans in Nessus:
 - <http://www.symantec.com/connect/articles/introduction-nessus>
 - http://netsecurity.about.com/od/stepbystep/ss/nessus_scan.htm
 - Scan using Fport:
 - <http://www.mcafee.com/us/downloads/free-tools/fport.aspx>
 - Simple scan using Kaspersky:
<http://support.kaspersky.com/kav2012/settings/scan?qid=208284603>

Protective Measures

● Examples of Protective Security Measures per SANS

- Access controls
 - User IDs and passwords, appropriate password and security policies, separation of duties
- User authentication, with appropriate use of controls, where possible (e.g. ,smart cards), biometrics, etc.
- Workstation lock screens
- Encryption
- Proper registry permissions
- Proper directory and file permissions
- Properly defined user rights
- Social engineering prevention
- Applying patches/updates
- Firewalls
- VPN tunneling
- Screening routers

Protective Measures

- **More examples of Protective Security Measures per SANS**
 - Anti-virus software
 - Prompt removal of terminated/transferred employee accounts, default passwords, and unnecessary services running on the system
 - Implementing and enforcing change control policy to limit activity to authorized users only
 - Review and management signoffs of user authorizations
 - Use of checksums with attendant software to report file modifications
 - Enable audit logging and perform log reviews
 - Review of open ports and services
 - Properly configured routers
 - Searching for and disconnecting unauthorized or poorly configured modem services

List of References

- <http://www.softwarepatch.com/>
- <http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/alerts/index.html>
- http://www.sans.org/reading_room/whitepapers/basics/vulnerability-assessment_421
- <http://netsecurity.about.com/od/freesecuritytools/a/aafreevulns-can.htm>
- <http://sectools.org/vuln-scanners.html>
- <http://www.vulnerabilityassessment.co.uk/Penetration%20Test.html>