Chapter 11: Designing Effective Security Dashboards

Perfection is achieved, not when there is nothing more to add, but when there is nothing left to take away.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, Airman's Odyssey

Just when you thought it was safe to leave the comfort of your analytics lab to grab another caffeinated beverage you find yourself in a conversation with one of the security managers and are asked the nigh inevitable, dreaded question: “Can you help us build a ‘security’ dashboard?” If that sentence did not cause even a flicker of your own fight-or-flight response, you may not truly understand the difficulty and complexity of designing succinct, meaningful displays of quantitative information in order to drive some type of action. This chapter will present techniques and advice that will enable you to design dashboards to help measure, monitor and mobilize every layer of security in your organization

What Is A Dashboard, Anyway?