Week 4: Sarbanes-Oxley and End-User Spreadsheets for "Company X"

No unread replies.No replies.

This week's reading titled "Spreadheets and Sarbanes-Oxley: Regulations, Risks, and Control Frameworks" has numerous implications for organizations.

**1. Make policy recommendations to management of "Company X"** governing end-user spreadsheets based on your reading of this article. Conduct an in-depth analysis in which you will make and support at least three specific recommendations for organization policy.

**2. Ask a question** of at least one other student's policy recommendation posting. Comments are allowed but will not be scored. Answer all questions you receive.

Company X is an organization with around 15,000 employees and is in the healthcare field. Therefore, it requires the recording of costs of procedures on spreadsheets, along with other data such as medical codes. Given the importance of providing patients the best care, it’s important for Company X to avoid any material deficiency in their results. It is well known that costs in health care are inflated when compared to other industries, so it’s important that the policies regrading the recording of the financial transactions are strong. That is why I’m going to have a series of recommendations, which are:

1. Comprehensive testing of spreadsheets, both individual cells and formulas.
2. Version control so that only current and approved versions of each spreadsheet is used, ensuring accuracy.
3. Build analytics into the spreadsheets that help detect fraud patterns.
4. Security and data integrity by storing spreadsheets in protected directories and lock formula cells to prevent logic changes by unauthorized users.
5. Backup and archive spreadsheets in a read-only format for later review

By implementing these policies, Company X will be on strong footing to be in compliance with Sarbanes-Oxley and avoid potential fraud cases. However, even with these in policy recommendations in place, there will still be some amount of human error, but the goal is to stop material deficiencies in the company’s spreadsheet system. Operational procedures, auditing, documentation methods, and secure spreadsheet operations all need to be developed

**Week 4: Rethinking Access Control and Authentication for the Home Internet of Things**

**Part 1:** By Wednesday, respond to any **one** of the following issues:

* How is IoT different from other computing environments in terms of information security?
* What special problems do you see with access control and/or authorization in IoT?
* What is the most important aspect of this presentation, in your opinion?
* Is there anything you disagree with in the presentation? Why?
* After listening to the Q&A session following the presentation, is there a question you would have liked the presenters to answer?
* Did anything in the presentation surprise you?

**Part 2:** Reply with a question or comment to at least TWO other student postings. (Be sure to check and answer any questions you receive.)

What is the most important aspect of this presentation, in your opinion?

In my opinion the most important part of the video is where they go from recapping what’s missing from the current access control systems on IoT devices, to what should be expected of them in the future. The key missing parts now are the relationships, capabilities, and contextual factors. Instead of allowing access control of say just an owner, and guest, we need to have a much granular design around who’s using the product. I think about one of Steve Job’s best quotes from when he first returned to Apple, it was “You don’t start with the technology and work backwards to the customer, you start with the customer, and work backwards to the technology”. The subtlety of what he’s saying there is exactly what the speakers in the presentation were trying to get across. The importance of designing relationships and allow capabilities based on those relationships is something that should be front and center, not an afterthought. By doing this, not only does it make the process of access control a more user-friendly experience, but it also increases security.

I noticed that the video was from 2018, and since then there has been some progress made on this front. I for one own and Eero mesh Wi-Fi system and the access control there is very user friendly and covers most of what the speakers said was missing. One of the bigger innovations coming down the line which will help a great deal is the protocol Matter, which will allow smart devices from different OEMs to communicate. Anyone who’s tried to set up a smart home knows how difficult it can be with all the different standards out there, but this industry-unifying protocol will go along way to addressing the concerns cited by the speakers.