







Building a Vulnerability Management Program

And growing it to Maturity



Who am I?

- Jacen Kohler
- UNT alumni, BS in in Computer Engineering
 - SrDesign Capstone: NASA IPv6 DHCP in Space
- Career:
 - Goldman Sachs: Summer Intern & FTE Cyber Security Analyst
 - Big4 Consulting: Sr Cyber Security Consultant
 - Critical Mfg: Vulnerability Management Program Lead
- Community:
 - Bsides DFW
 - Dallas Hackers Association
 - SouthWest CCDC Red Team



Overview

- What is Vulnerability Management
- Why you need a VM program
- Building support
- Design the program
- Implement the Program
- Mature the Program



What is Vulnerability Management

- Vulnerability: open to attack or damage
- VM: Continuous, proactive, and often automated process that keeps your computer systems, networks, and enterprise applications safe from cyberattacks and data breaches
- What VM is NOT
 - Just the vulnerability scanner
 - Asset Management
 - Patch Program
 - Business Impact Analysis

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/vulnerability>

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/security/business/security-101/what-is-vulnerability-management>



Terms You'll Need to Know

- Common Vulnerability & Exposure (CVE)
- Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS)
- Common Weakness Enumeration Specification (CWE)
- Common Platform Enumeration (CPE)
- Remediation
- Mitigation

<https://cve.mitre.org/cve/>

<https://nvd.nist.gov/vuln-metrics/cvss>

<https://cwe.mitre.org/>

<https://cpe.mitre.org/about/>



Why You Need a VM Program

- CISA Performance Goals
 - 1.E Mitigating Known Vulnerabilities
 - 2.W No Exploitable Services on the Internet
- NIST CSF
 - ID.RA-1: Asset vulnerabilities are identified and documented
 - PR.IP-12: A vulnerability management plan is developed and implemented
 - DE.CM-8: Vulnerability scans are performed
 - RS.MI-3: Newly identified vulnerabilities are mitigated or documented as accepted risks
 - ID.RA-6: Risk responses are identified and prioritized
 - RS.AN-5: Processes are established to receive, analyze and respond to vulnerabilities disclosed to the organization from internal and external sources
- MITRE ATT&CK T1595.002

<https://www.cisa.gov/cross-sector-cybersecurity-performance-goals>

https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-03/cisa_cpg_checklist_v1.0.1_final.pdf

<https://www.nist.gov/cyberframework/framework>

<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1595/002/>



Building Support

- Determine the program sponsor
- Identify your stakeholders
 - Who will be consuming your reports?
 - Who will be remediating your findings?
- Determine how a VM program could benefit them
- Secure funding



Design the Program

- Prerequisites
 - Asset Management
- Nice to haves
 - Threat Intel (Bring your own)



Design the Program

- Write the VM Policy
 - Remediation/Mitigation SLAs
 - Exception process
- Use Cases
- Service Catalog
- Requirements



Implement the Program

- Plan scan coverage based on network topology
- Network topology determines scan engine placement
- Deploy Agents to everything that can accept an agent
- Passive Scanners



Build Scans

- Agent vs Authenticated
- Device Type
- Network saturation
 - Scan after business hours?



Reporting

- Before and After patching
- By IT Team
- Leadership Reports



Metrics

- Broken SLAs
- Mean Time to Resolve
- Mean Time to Detect
- Break down by IT Team



Tooling Health

- Scan Coverage
- Authentication Success
- Missing Agents



Mature the Program

- Documentation
- Adjusted Risk Ratings
- Cloud integrations
- Websites/Apps
- IOT
- Configuration Management
- SAST/DAST/IAST
- Risk acceptance based on potential cost



Summary

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Resources

- Cyber Resiliency Review Supplemental Resource Guide Volume 4
- SANS SEC460: Enterprise and Cloud Threat and Vulnerability Assessment
- CISA Alerts & External Scan
- FBI's Domestic Security Alliance
- Vendor Research

https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CRR_Resource_Guide-VM_0.pdf

<https://www.sans.org/cyber-security-courses/enterprise-cloud-threat-vulnerability-assessment/>

<https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/cybersecurity-advisories>

<https://www.dsac.gov/>



Questions?

- LinkedIn: [LinkedIn.com/in/JacenRKohler](https://www.linkedin.com/in/JacenRKohler/)
- Twitter: [@JacenRKohler](https://twitter.com/JacenRKohler)
- Mastodon: [InfoSec.Exchange/@JacenRKohler](https://infosec.exchange/@JacenRKohler)
- GitHub: [GitHub.com/JacenRKohler/Presentations](https://github.com/JacenRKohler/Presentations)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/JacenRKohler/>

<https://twitter.com/JacenRKohler>

<https://infosec.exchange/@JacenRKohler>

<https://github.com/JacenRKohler/Presentations>



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<https://www.cisoxc.com/dfwseccon2-agenda>

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