

BEYOND THE MOAT - COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY STRATEGIES

The concept of a hardened perimeter is changing and is difficult to define. We are seeing a movement away from stateful firewalls to application layer firewalls that filter traffic at layer 7. The idea of hardening workstation and server endpoints is a somewhat new approach that is gaining popularity because there tends to be a false sense of security with network based security alone.

The threat landscape is becoming more complex and one of the biggest threats is malware: worms, Trojans, bot nets, keystroke loggers, etc. These kinds of ongoing, sophisticated attacks call for intrusion prevention systems (IPS) on host systems and heuristic-based solutions, not signature-based systems. They also demand AV software at both the gateway and the desktop - again we come back to the concept of multiple layers of defense.

As far as remote access goes, our clients are rapidly adopting SSL-based Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) and retiring their old IPSEC access. SSL VPNs save on operational costs and are much easier for IT employees to manage and for employees and vendors who need remote access to use. Application layer and Web security gateways are also helping to add new layers of security to the remote access realm.

Banks need to work with security vendors that offer more than just a box to sell. Integrated Computer Solutions is a pure security services company, and we are hardware and software vendor-agnostic. Our 70 certified security experts take a custom approach with each and every one of our clients, but at the same time we impress on them the same basic principles: focus on risk management and always strive to take a preventative, proactive approach.

Many security vendors start their assignments with a penetration test, but we do just the opposite - we finish with a penetration test. Extensive experience across many industries has shown us that the best approach is to methodically work from the inside out, performing a full security assessment from the inside, and logically inserting and removing security controls to measure security posture in the event one or more security controls fails.

We believe that a good security partner is one with broad and deep services which has a good cross section of clients. That description exactly fits the NetworkArmor division of Integrated Computer Solutions: we are a full-service Information Security consulting firm that serves financial institutions, commercial businesses, not-for-profit associations, educational institutions, and government agencies including a large Department of Defense client base. We pride ourselves on providing creative ideas and solutions to our clients based on this invaluable experience helping diverse organizations protect themselves in an insecure world.



Stephen Goldsby is President and CEO of Integrated Computer Solutions, Inc. (ICS), an Information Security Consulting firm founded in 1997 and headquartered in Montgomery, AL. A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Goldsby has been an information security professional since 1991. In 2003 the National Small Business Administration honored Goldsby as the Alabama Small Businessman of the Year. Mr. Goldsby is a popular featured speaker at national and state conferences as an Information Security subject matter expert. His Information Security articles and papers have been featured in national trade magazines and journals. In October 2004, ICS was honored as a CNN Champion of Industry and showcased in a segment of the CNN News narrated by Pat Summerall.

