Online, Mobile, Network & Physical - Securing the Spectrum

Security strategies and solutions can vary greatly from credit union to credit union depending on the size and complexity of the environments. With today's mobile workforce and web applications, the challenges can become even more cumbersome and I don't expect a reduction in complexity in the future. Having said that, there a few simple strategies that all credit unions can adopt to manage the complexity, simplify, centralize and monitor.

Simplify: Security appliances, software and solutions are littered throughout the industry. Many credit unions are motivated to install the latest security gear to protect their assets. Unfortunately, the result is a complex environment which is ultimately less secure. Business operations inevitably require that holes be made and what we end up with is a complex web of unknown and unmanageable rules to facilitate operations. So while it may seem counterintuitive, we need to decrease complexity by simplifying the security tools that we use to protect the network.

Centralize: Managing the security of a network requires operators to solve for the web, mobile devices, network and physical security. In order to manage these various aspects effectively there must be central management. Thankfully most networks today have that central control built in with Active Directory. Using Active Directory as the core of your security program provides you with the simplicity to manage users' access and roles in one central location. Point solutions like web content filters, mobile device management software, badge readers, and of course PCs can all be linked to Active Directory. This linkage provides for a single point of management which simplifies user rights and roles and allows administrators to ensure security.

Monitor: Simplifying and centralizing your network can be done through an assessment and remediation project. However, security is constantly changing and the management of your business can often supersede the rules of the network. In order to ensure that the simplification and manageability remains intact, network administrators must intelligently monitor those solutions.

The philosophy that we encourage when it comes to securing these channels is simplicity and this provides credit unions with less management overhead. Whether internal staff or outside resources manage that infrastructure, the cost is lessened through the simplicity. As a credit union provider we are aware of limited resources within credit unions and are sensitive to the security and compliance needs they face. As a result we have also developed low cost fully managed solutions that meet the security needs of credit unions. Credit unions can save significant time and money by allowing our team of security experts to manage their environments.

At Horsetail we address all four of the needs mentioned in this discussion: online, mobile, network and physical. We do so by providing a central suite of managed and unmanaged security products. Our fully integrated suite provides credit unions with:

1. UTM firewall which includes web content filtering, IPS, Gateway AV and more.
2. Mobile Device Management and Control across platforms including all mobile phones, tablets and laptops.
3. End Point Security.
4. Physical access control.
5. Monitoring and reporting.
6. Active Directory integration.

The benefit to using our solution is that we offer a suite of products that have been combined to provide credit unions with solutions that meets their current needs within a budget that they can afford. We make the complex, simple.

Chris Sachse
Co-Founder and Principal
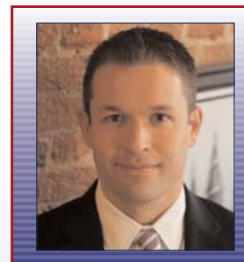
Horsetail Tech

Chris Sachse is a Cisco CCSE, Microsoft MCPSE, Sonicwall CSE, as well as Co-Founder and Principal of Horsetail Technologies which is a National IT Services provider. He has expertise in multiple technology disciplines including networking, security, virtualization, WAN/LAN, among others. Christopher's vertical focus was compliance based industries and he became an expert in IT compliance. He brings his skills of leadership, relationship building and technology to the Horsetail Technologies team. He is currently working on completing his masters in Leadership and Management and is also completing a Project Management Certification program.

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