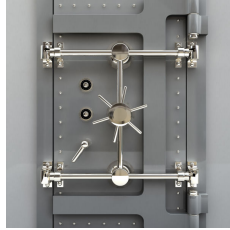


On-Site Internet Gateway Review



An on-site review of an Internet gateway goes beyond a simple external scan, making sure that there is defence in depth by examining each perimeter network in detail.

The Need

Remote scanning of a gateway does not test the actual functioning of the firewalls, in that it cannot find out which types of connection are allowed, how the firewall and other systems react to anomalous traffic or whether the day-to-day management of the systems is adequate. This requires connecting to the various gateway networks on site and inspecting the critical components.

Our Service

Firstly, we examine the actual configuration of the existing gateway platforms: for example, firewall, router and SMTP gateways. This includes rule sets, logging configuration and underlying platform security. For critical networks, the latter may take the form of a full build review.

To complement this manual examination, we use various security scanning tools to check for specific vulnerabilities. These may be run several times: from the router LAN (if possible), from various gateway LAN and from the internal network. Coupled with this, we can also use a dummy responding host to see which services are actually passed by the firewall. This test is run twice to check both inward and outward flow.

Where appropriate, we review procedures for log handling and archiving, alert monitoring and forwarding, backup and recovery, and administrator security. We make recommendations where necessary.

We use our own Netwalk tool for network mapping and host characterisation. For finding specific vulnerabilities we use a number of tools, including Internet Scanner from ISS and the public domain tool Nessus.

Price

Our charges are based purely on the consultancy hours required to carry out the work, plus expenses charged at cost (depending on site location).

Assumptions and Caveats

We need full access to appropriate policy, architecture and design documents.

The client must provide a technical contact for general liaison.

Some testing may be limited by wiring or network address restrictions, particularly if the gateway is live and service cannot be interrupted.

What You Get

The deliverable is a report detailing our findings on the gateway operation. Where security vulnerabilities are found, we give general guidance on removing them.

Our Track Record

For a mobile phone company we assessed all the networks that made up their main Internet portal, covering more than 100 large servers plus supporting infrastructure across 15 networks. Although the total host count was relatively small, this required a significant operational effort as the various networks were firewalled and required specific attachment of our scanning machines in the data centre.

Related Services

Network Penetration Testing	External penetration testing puts us in much the same position as a potential intruder, trying to break into the Internet gateway and systems behind it.
Superwalk: Automated Monitoring	Superwalk runs regular scans of an Internet gateway and characterises all hosts that give any IP response. It also uses a number of tools to find specific vulnerabilities in the services offered.

Feel Good About Your Network

IDsec is an independent company specialising in network security. We can assess your security and advise on long-term protection: as we have for a range of blue-chip clients since 1997.

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services/testing/gateway-review.pdf 20091019 (5.09)