

## **PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABORATORY**

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Don't assume your technology is secure.  
*Know.*

Networks and servers and hackers... oh my!  
The risks of using and relying on technology

Monday, November 23, 2009

nGenuity helps businesses safeguard their valuable information from the risks posed by today's high-tech environment.

Utilizing analytical processes and technology solutions, our consultants assess risk and recommend measures that ensure your information is secure, and that critical networks and computer systems are running smoothly.

Staffed with nationally accredited security consultants, nGenuity possesses over 20 years of combined IT security experience.

**Ensure the protection of your most valuable data.**



# Technology in our day

7:30 AM – Check mobile phone for daily schedule

7:55 AM – Badge into the office

8:00 AM – Check Email

8:05 AM – Blog / tweet / facebook, check stocks

9:00 AM – Order from Website

9:45 AM – Print agenda for morning meeting

11:00 AM – Receive reports from Accounting

1:00 PM – Call conference bridge for finance meeting

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The typical business relies on technology every day in a number of ways. Ways that you might never expected to be so important to your business.

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The risks we will focus on are People and Technology.



# People



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People are an often ignored risk. We ignore the fact that we are lazy and forgetful. Simply being aware of this fact allows us to implement compensating technical controls. People are also motivated by factors other than logic, money, emotion, etc.



# Social engineering



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More information on social engineering can be found at [social-engineer.org](http://social-engineer.org)



# Mistakes & accidents



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# Malicious insiders



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For most businesses in my experience get the most attacks from outside of the organization. The most damaging ones I see come from inside attackers. This might be a malicious or disgruntled employee. Doing proper background checks and auditing employee activities for privileged employees will help mitigate this.



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# Web apps & sites



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When it comes to technology threats, web applications are often times the only exposure an organization has to the Internet and often the most mis-understood risk. Web applications often allow outside access into our networks and are connected to databases, by passing firewalls and other protection controls we may have in place.



# 64 is a lot of percent.

“64% of websites currently have at least one serious vulnerability.”

- Whitehat Security



# Exploitation demonstration



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Using the SET (Social Engineers Toolkit) available from [social-engineer.org](http://social-engineer.org) I demonstrated just how easy attackers have it when attacking end users. Going back to the end user as the weakest link, when users simply click "ok" or "run" and ignore browser warnings, it's rather easy to take over systems.



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So should we  
just give up  
and close  
up shop?



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Attackers have the upper hand in most cases. As defenders we have to find and compensate for every vulnerability and they have to just find one to be able to potentially exploit us. There are no guarantees in security only reduction and management of risk. Following a well defined process will assist with identification and mitigation of risk.



# Assess



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**Assess:**  
Assessments are the starting point of any process. They help identify areas of vulnerability. There are many types of assessments that specific areas of the organization.

A few important ones to focus on are:  
Policy Gap Analysis  
Web application Assessment  
Network Penetration Test



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Hostgator.com hosts 2.2 million domains. nGenuity provided web application and code assessment services for an in-house developed application.



# Plan



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Plan:

Don't bother purchasing technology unless you know where your starting (assessment) and know where you want to end up (plan).



# Protect



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**Protect:**  
Implement the technical controls and training that gets to mitigating and reducing the risk that is outlined in your plan.



# Maintain



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Security is not set and forget. You must constantly take a pulse on the security of the organization and adjust to make sure you are making effective use of your security controls.



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*Know.*

# Questions?

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