

Data security in the age of collaboration and communication

On the evening of 9th March, the conference room at O Hotel in Koregaon Park, Pune was full with CIOs who had gathered to learn and debate one of the prime concerns that keeps a CIO awake at night. The concern is that of security of the data and information that the organization is heavily dependent on. In today's 24*7, global operations scenarios there are many questions that a CIO has for data security. The seminar tried to address these concerns by bringing together practitioners and solution providers. The evening was sponsored by Websense and was moderated by Shreesh Patwardhan for CIOKlub..

Viraj Padhye, Head of information security and systems at Cybage, started the evening with his presentation. He focused on the aspects of data leakage prevention (DLP) and also shared insights from a practitioner's perspective. He mentioned the need to put down a policy and then assessing security on an ongoing basis as there are many ways in which security is compromised inadvertently by the legit users. In his experience, the timeframe to implement a good solution is about 6 months.

John T Lounsbury CISSP, BCCE. Senior Director Sales Engineering, Asia Pacific and Japan, Websense Inc, gave an insightful presentation on securing the borderless enterprise. He mentioned organizations a hybrid solution of on premise and on cloud data. He further stated that blocking information is not the way forward especially for social media. He also explained the Websense solution that keeps on learning continuously about websites and then in real time assesses the validity of the data transfer.

Sameer Shelke, COO and CTO of Aujas Networks talked about information risk management. He spelled out the formula for residual risk calculation to be

$\text{asset value} * \text{vulnerability} * \text{probability of attack} = \text{risk} - \text{security controls} = \text{residual risk}$

He also mentioned the difference between the perceived asset and actual information asset by giving example of a server. The asset in this case is clearly the information that the server stores and not the server in itself. He talked about avoiding the tool trap and mentioned the need to focus on the security of systems during operational phase.

The final interactive session of panel discussion was steered effectively by Sharat Airani, CIO, Forbes Marshall. Anil Tinaikar, CIO, ThyssenKrupp along with John, Viraj and Sameer formed the panel. The audience had many questions concerning the cost of security, the coverage of security, what consists of 'reasonable' security etc. All the panel members shared their candid views and experience, and stressed the need for continuous management of security.

In the end, Anil Khopkar, CIO, Bajaj auto, informed everybody about the upcoming tie up of CIOKlub with Pacific Services Group. He enumerated the benefits of this tie up for the members.

The cocktails and dinner that followed saw lot of discussion around the topic of security. This opportunity for voicing concerns, learning from peers and service providers is the key aspect of all CIOKlub events and we are committed to bringing such sessions regularly for our members.