

Case Study



Secure Courier Company Web-Based MIS Security Project

CLIENT

The client is a multinational secure courier and cash-handling organisation. There was a requirement for a web-based Management Information System that would allow the entry, consolidation and reporting of financial and utilisation data via a common browser interface.

PROBLEM

The web-based application retrieved management information data from various in-house and external sources and produce consolidated views for reporting and updating of figures on a regular basis. Executives in the UK and many worldwide locations wished to be able to log onto the system via a variety of connections from office LANs to hotel room dial-up access and do so securely.

Client to server security and server to back-end database security were prime concerns. Issues of Authentication, Authorisation, Data Integrity, Data Privacy, Usability and Availability had to be addressed in order to provide Information Assurance to the highest practicable standard.

With such a list of requirements, the concern was to create a prioritised list of appropriate security measures that would meet the selection criteria.

SOLUTION

The client chose a series of Dependency Modelling workshops to help clarify the project objectives, gain consensus with senior management and prioritise the suggested solutions. An initial one-day facilitated workshop was held which included senior management and the technical team in the morning session. This produced the top-level objectives and performance requirements for the project. In the afternoon the workshop "drilled-down" to the actual technical solutions that would meet the requirements set during the morning session. Scores were then allocated to show the level of risk for each issue without the security measures and the effectiveness of those measures against each risk.

RESULTS

As a result of using this approach, we were able to produce a dependency model showing the agreed objectives and how they could be met. In addition a ranked list of risks was produced along with a list of suggested security measures, sorted by effectiveness in terms of meeting the project objectives. The client was then able to allocate resources to these measures, safe in the knowledge that all the major risks had been addressed.

