Hedge Fund & Investment Firms CyberSecurity Guide 2013

2SECURE safeguarding your data

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Hedge Fund CyberSecurity Risks Landscape

75% of attacks are financially motivated by three main groups of Cyber attackers, they are: spies, activists and criminals. They may use the same tools, scripts and other means to hack into a given system, the net result is the same; causing financial and reputation damages. The main question would be how should we prepare for this? Before we answer this question let's analyze what's needed to perform these attacks.

Cyber Attack Skill Techniques Breakdown

- 68% of the attacks required basic skilled techniques with little or no customization
- 22% of the attacks required skilled techniques and customization
- 10% of the attacks do not require any skill set, an average person could have done it
- Less than 1% of the attacks required high skills

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Origin of Data Breach Breakdown

According to common belief, internal users make up the majority of all attacks, however, the numbers below defy this belief:

- 86% of attacks are external
- 14% of attacks are internal
- 1% of attacks are from partners
- 1% of attacks with no definition

An Organization's Weak Points

Where should you focus your efforts to protect your assets?

- 1st Desktops
- 2nd File Servers
- 3rd Laptops
- 4th Web Applications

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Managing & Mitigating CyberSecurity Threats

Knowing the problems are half of the solution(s). In order to manage & mitigate above CyberSecurity threats we have combined the following checklist:

Programs Checklist	Can 2Secure Help Us?
1. Develop and deploy patch management procedure for all devices on your network	✓
2. Develop and deploy Antivirus management procedure	✓
3. Develop and deploy user account password policy	✓
4. Develop security policies and procedures	✓
5. Develop and maintain Internal & External vulnerability assessments	✓
6. Develop and deploy web application penetration testing program	✓
7. Develop and deploy network monitoring systems	✓

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Managing & Mitigating Cloud CyberSecurity

Hedge Fund and investment firms are exploring the use of this technology in the hope of achieving multiple targets, such as:

1. Reducing IT costs
2. Simplifying IT Infrastructure
3. Mitigating Disaster & Recovery Operations

This move will require investment firms a different look at Cybersecuirty and to weigh the benefits against the risks by answering the following questions BEFORE making this move:

Where is your data?

As it sounds "Cloud" means my data can be "traveling" on the wire to anywhere in the world. This is done for the sake of cost reduction and backup to a redundant site and is not something you, as the owner of the data can have control over.

What data types will be saved?

Data types can include intellectual property, personal information that contains social security, credit card numbers or maybe medical information.

Do I need to comply with any regulation such as PCI-DSS?

Many companies have procedures, policies and regulations safeguarding sensitive data as it was mentioned above.

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Who has access to my data?

Since the information and applications are served from the "cloud" anyone that sits in the cloud may have access.

Can my data leak from my cloud "systems" to other cloud "systems"?

Your data can leak from your cloud systems to another system in the cloud, it may be possible when different systems are joined together to ease management tasks and costs or failure to segregate systems.

How will my internal applications be interacting with my cloud applications?

Today various systems are interconnecting with other systems for data exchange, for instance accounting systems is getting its data from client management software for billing and how this move to the cloud will affect my business.

How will my business continue to work when?

a. No Internet connectivity
b. The cloud service is down
c. Bottleneck over the internet connection.

After all of the above questions have been answered, it may be possible to make a decision. Maybe some of the functions can be moved out from the firm's premises to the cloud and all "core" applications and information will stay in house.

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Conclusion

CyberSecurity risks are here to stay with us for long time; there is no one solution but persistence and following common sense can help greatly. In order to be successful when implementing a CyberSecurity program you must have management as well as employees supporting and participating actively in CyberSecurity initiatives. This is imperative for the survival of the organization.

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Sources

- Verizon "The 2013 Data Breach Investigations Report": http://www.verizonenterprise.com/DBIR/2013/

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About 2Secure Corp

What makes 2Secure unique is that we are the only CyberSecurity consulting firm that takes a PROACTIVE approach to solving network breach problems. 2Seucre provides you with recommendations on how to fix problems fast, the first time around. In fact, we guarantee it!

- ✓ Hacking Your Network & Systems Identifying Potential Breaches BEFORE They Accrue
- ✓ Sweeping Your Network Devices for an Existing Breach(s)…
- ✓ Provide You with a Comprehensive CyberSecurity Risk Analysis
- ✓ Being Proactive by Taking Ownership of the Process

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