

Meeting IT Security Needs with Solid Planning


It's not a question of "if" an IT security breach will be attempted; it's only a question of "when." Smart corporate management knows the only answer to this quandary is professional IT security planning. That's why one Atlanta-based technology company marketing to the financial services industry engaged The Intersect Group to create an expert-level plan of security policies and procedures to prevent breaches from harming the company or its customers.

The Intersect Group's experienced IT security professionals began the project on site, gathering information directly. Using a comprehensive approach to determining risk factors, inconsistencies and potential gaps in the client's security, they explored all areas and sources of potential jeopardy—from hardware and software systems, applications and network devices to monitoring tools and response plans. They also examined existing policies, evaluated training and awareness programs, and considered all in the context of compliance standards including SOX, PCI, and HIPAA. After this thorough analysis, the team presented its findings and recommendations for tightening security.

In the next phase, the team developed a comprehensive security policy and procedures plan that became the controlling standard for the company's operational environment. The plan includes recommended best practices for logical access, intrusion detection and prevention, firewall configuration, website safeguards and all other technical aspects of security. It also addresses internal business processes and non-technology issues, such as event management and emergency response.

The security plan encompasses policies extending enterprise-wide. It references inconsistencies in security across departments or functions, and establishes measures to remedy situations and decrease risk. The plan documents monitoring and response mechanisms, communication and reporting, and employee education and awareness measures. Policies are tailored to fit individual circumstances.

The Intersect Group met all internal, customer and regulatory requirements and gave the company a documented, comprehensive security plan to improve the organization. The Intersect Group worked with internal resources to implement the plan, and provided the standard for periodic professional reviews and follow-up assessments. With potential security vulnerabilities addressed, management and customers are confident their environment is protected, and their business secure.



Total cybercrime losses in 2005 were \$130.1 million; the majority of the losses were due to viruses, unauthorized access to computer systems and theft of propriety information.

*CSI/FBI Computer
Crime and Security
Survey,
October 2005*

20% of consumers terminated a relationship with a company after being notified of a security breach.

*Ponemon Institute,
December 2005*

About The Intersect Group

The Intersect Group is a privately held, Atlanta-based firm offering IT and finance & accounting expertise to progressive, high-growth companies. The professional services firm helps Fortune 1000, middle market and emerging companies, including those backed by private equity firms, transform. Through our executive/advisory, consulting, and staffing services, we are focused on clients' growth and on helping them achieve leadership positions. More information is available at www.theintersectgroup.com.

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