Ensuring a Clean Bill of Health for Databases

A leading health insurer needed to protect databases containing personal health records of millions of customers while meeting regulatory and compliance requirements, including HIPAA and HITECH, along with state and federal laws and regulations.

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Client Spotlight

With over 50,000 employees, billions of dollars in annual revenue and millions of customers, this health insurer needed to reduce database security risk across all existing and newly acquired databases, establish reporting consistency and scale its database security program across over 2,500 databases.

The Challenge

Auditors discovered multiple vulnerabilities in the insurer's databases so they decided to proactively prepare for annual audits by identifying and remediating vulnerabilities before the audit, saving time and the hassle of fixing vulnerabilities after the fact.

> **" *Simplified the fulfillment of myriad, complex compliance requirements.* "**

Steady growth through acquisition made it necessary to evaluate the risk associated with newly acquired databases containing health records and medical claims information. They also needed to evaluate the risk of adding several Microsoft SQL databases to their network to determine whether the data in those databases was exposed and if they contained any vulnerabilities that may expose the corporate network to new attack vectors.

As the organization grew over a few years it became unmanageable to manually assess database users, group roles and privileges. They also needed scale across thousands of database instances. Their IT staff needed a less expensive and more effective way to measure and enforce compliance across complex, diverse networks.

The Solution

The insurer needed a powerful and easy to use scanning tool to prepare for and remediate database vulnerabilities prior to the external audit. They purchased Trustwave AppDetectivePRO, which allowed their staff to run ad hoc scans of databases producing consistent reporting for tracking of remediation progress. They also used AppDetectivePRO to remotely evaluate the risk levels of newly acquired databases.

When they needed a scalable solution to standardize database security and compliance initiatives, they selected Trustwave DbProtect with its vulnerability management and rights management modules. DbProtect provided a perfect mix of features for scheduled and ad hoc scans. For example, the insurer instituted one fully automated check for weak passwords to run every week across their entire database portfolio. DbProtect delivered consistent, accurate reporting with meaningful and actionable results that were distributed to key stakeholders.

Industry Threat

Recently a leading health insurer paid $16M for a large U.S. Health Data Breach. A recent report discovered that at least 81% of healthcare or health insurance organizations suffered a data breach in the past two years while another report found that 30% of online health databases expose patient records online through FTP servers, FHIR apps and other platforms. Cyber criminals are increasingly targeting health care records since this information and a much longer shelf life than financial records, rich enough for identity theft and also gives them the opportunity for health insurance fraud.

> **" *Coherently presented database security status and progress to multiple stakeholders.* "**

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