Big “Thank you!!!” to the Authors

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Introduction and aim

- Introduction
  - Online Businesses
  - Weak spot HTTP
  - Reference to PCI DSS

- Definition of the term “Web Application Firewall”
  - NOT a Network Firewall
  - Not only Hardware

- Targeted audience
  - Technical decision-makers
  - People responsible for operations and security
  - Application Owners
Characteristics of web applications with regards to security

- Higher level aspects in the company
  - Access to personal customer data
  - Access to (confidential) company information
    - Image loss
  - Certifications

- Technical Aspects
  - Test and quality assurance
  - Documentation
  - Vendor-Contracts
Overview of what WAFs can do

- Where do WAFs fit into the Web App Sec field
  - WAFs are part of a solution
  - Main benefits of a WAF
  - Additional functionality

- What can be archived with WAFs
  - Table with (wanted) functionality
    - examples: CSRF, Session fixation, *-Injection
  - Rating / Evaluation:
    - + can be very well implemented using a WAF
    - - can not be implemented
    - ! dependent on the WAF/application/requirements
    - = can partly be implemented by a WAF
Benefits and risks of WAFs (I)

- Main benefits of WAFs
  - Base line security
  - Compliance
  - Just-in-time patching of problems

- Additional benefits of (depending on functionality)
  - Central reporting and error logging
  - SSL termination
  - URL-Encryption
  - ....
Benefits and risks of WAFs (II)

- Risks involved using WAFs
  - False positives
  - Increased complexity
  - Yet another proxy
  - Potential side effects if the WAF terminates the application
Protection against the OWASP TOP 10
App vs. WAF vs. Policy

- Three types of applications:
  - T1: Web application in design phase
  - T2: Already productive app which can easily be changed (e.g. with MVC architecture)
  - T3: Productive app which cannot be modified or only with difficulty

- Table of OWASP TOP 10 in regards to work required with the 3 types of application to fix the problem
  - in the application itself
  - using a WAF
  - using a policy
Criteria for deciding whether or not to use Web Application Firewalls (I)

Company wide criteria:

- Importance of the app for the success of the company
- Number of web applications
- Complexity
- Operational costs
- Performance and scalability
Criteria for deciding whether or not to use Web Application Firewalls (II)

- Criteria with regard to the web application
  - Changeability of the application
  - Documentation
  - Maintenance contracts
  - Time required fixing bugs in third-party products

- Consideration of financial aspects
  - Avoidance of financial damage via successful attacks
  - Costs of using a WAF
    - License costs
    - Update costs
    - Project costs for evaluation and introducing a WAF
    - Volume of work required / Personnel costs
Criteria for deciding whether or not to use Web Application Firewalls (II)

- Evaluation and Summary
Best practices for introduction and operation of Web Application Firewalls (I)

- Infrastructure
  - Central or decentralized infrastructure
    - central proxy application
    - host based - plug-in approach
    - virtualization !??!!??
  - Performance
    - GBits/Second throughput on hardware does NOT matter
    - HTTP requests processed per second is important
    - Simultaneous web application users
    - Think of peak load times (pre Christmas rush)
Organizational aspects

- Security Policies
  - Try not to change security policies already in place
- Suggestion of new job position
  - WAF application manager
    - One-off task of commissioning a WAF
    - In-depth knowledge of WAF capabilities
    - Alarm and Error management
    - Changes to the rule-set
    - Talking to the development department(s)
Best practices for introduction and operation of Web Application Firewalls (III)

Iterative procedure

- **Step 1**
  - Definition of the people responsible for security
    - ideally the “WAF application manager”

- **Step 2**
  - Baseline security for all web applications
    - mostly blacklisting using vendor signatures
    - monitor for false positives/negatives and get rid of them

- **Step 3**
  - Prioritized list of all web applications which need to be secured
    - Use the checklist (attached to the paper)

- **Further Steps:**
  - Work through the list and systematically secure the app
Appendices

- Checklist to define the ‘accessibility’ of the web application
  - The more point you score the, the better is the access to web application

- Job descriptions for the ‘new guys’
  - WAF platform manager
    - needed in really complex/big environments
  - WAF application manager (per application)
  - Application manager
Questions

Thank you!

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