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Auditing a SQL Server 2000 Server
An Independent Auditors Perspective
SANS GSNA V. 2.1 (Option 1)

Graham Thompson

Abstract:

This paper contains a checklist for securing Microsoft SQL Server 2000. The goal of this checklist is to give any IT generalist the information and test procedures required to harden SQL server security to meet industry good practices. In addition to the checklist, the paper analyzes the current state of SQL security, conducts a series of tests based on the checklist and reports the audit findings to ACME financial Management.

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Assignment 1: Research in Audit, Measurement Practice, and Control

Company Overview

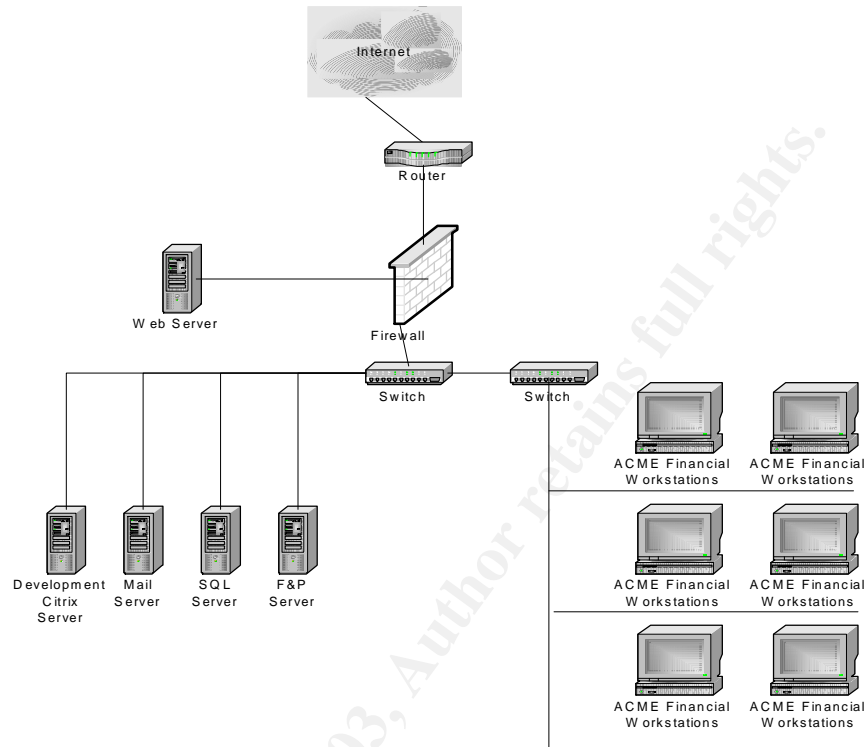
ACME Financial Inc is an independent financial services firm that primarily deals with insurance and investment needs of its clients. It does so by offering clients access to multiple mutual funds and insurance packages. The Company serves clients with high net worth. Due to a new Internet initiative and resource constraints, the Company has decided to seek outside assistance with the analysis of the SQL server security.

The Company has one staff member that maintains its own internal switched network. The internal network consists of 5 servers and over 200 workstations running a mix of Windows 2000 and Windows NT 4 Workstation. ACME Financial has setup a web presence and maintains the servers on site. Their connection to the Internet is provided by a large ISP, which also offers minimal firewall services.

Recently, the Company decided to establish client access to their accounts from the Internet. This move was based on customer demand for access to their account information across the Internet. As the data held within the SQL Server will be exposed to the Internet, ACME executives have mandated that security of the internal network be investigated. Due to staffing and resource limitations, outside help was sought.

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ACME Physical Network Layout



ACME Financial Network Diagram

Identify the system to be audited

The focus of this audit is the ACME Financial SQL Server 2000 standard edition (Service Pack 2) database server installed on top of Windows 2000 server (Service Pack 2). The server hardware is a Dell 2550 2U server with a single PIII 1Ghz processor and 1GB of RAM. The server's main duty, among other purposes, is to act as a central repository for confidential client and employee information. This server is accessed by all staff for daily functions such as the querying and updating of client information. The server also holds all employee related data such as payroll and other sensitive information.

There are two front-end access points to the SQL server. From the Internet, IIS is the front-end interface to client data. Internally, employees use Microsoft Access and periodically use IIS to gain access to information held in the database.

Evaluate risk to the system

The SQL server was chosen as the lead candidate for a security audit due to the sensitivity of the data it holds, the amount of existing vulnerabilities associated with this product and the potential impact to business if the SQL server is compromised. Other servers in the environment will be audited in follow-up sessions.

The following table contains a high level overview of key risks associated with the SQL server, their possibility and their potential impact to the system. Please note that the auditor checklist will contain a detailed analysis of the tests required to ensure the reasonable assumption that these risks are covered.

| Priority Ranking | Control Objective | Risk | Probability | Impact |
|------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Critical | System must have detection and response mechanism in place | Untraceable access to data stored in server | High. Vendor has included functionality, but is disabled by default. | Loss of detection and response capabilities |
| Critical | System data must be archived and restore procedures must be known by staff. | Loss of data due to inappropriate backup, restore and Disaster Recovery process and procedures in place. | Medium, depending on Company processes and procedures | Potential increased downtime, potential loss of availability. |
| Critical | Exposure to published vulnerabilities must be reduced. | Patch level maintenance process and procedures not established and are not followed | Medium. Depends on organization. | A lack of documentation of both management directives and procedures can lead to a lack of proper patch maintenance |
| High | Network controls should be in place to protect server data | Unauthorized outsider access to SQL Server | Medium. The server is filtered by a firewall. Compromise of the firewall would allow for direct access to the SQL server. | Theft of Corporate data Loss of credibility |

| | | | | |
|--------|---|--|--|--|
| High | Users must be given least privilege to data. | Inappropriate insider access to data | High. The SQL server is used by staff members on a daily basis. | Loss of confidentiality. |
| High | SQL files must not be accessed by unauthorized individuals. | Critical SQL files can be manipulated | Medium. The main directory that stores all SQL data is given permissions that restrict standard users from gaining access. Other directories may disclose sensitive information that can be used as a precursor to an attack | Loss of confidentiality, potential loss of availability and integrity of data. |
| High | Audit logs of all actions taken on SQL server must be kept. | Account restrictions not established properly | Medium, depending on server configuration | Loss of confidentiality, possible loss of availability and integrity |
| Medium | Access to operating system level commands must be removed or restricted to privileged accounts. | Internal applications can be used to attack server | High. Stored procedures can be used to attack server and corporate network | Potential loss of all confidentiality Integrity and Availability of data stored on server. |

Table 1: System risks

Items outside of the above are considered out of scope for this particular audit. Although key aspects of the operating system are being investigated as a part of the SQL audit, this audit does not perform a complete Windows 2000 security audit. It does not analyze the configuration of the IIS server or it's connectivity to the SQL server. Potential SQL injection attacks due to improper code will not be investigated. Additionally, granular permissions on specific databases, tables, columns and views are excluded from this audit.

Present state of SQL Server 2000 auditing

Research was performed through the use of common Internet search engines such as Google, Yahoo and AltaVista. In addition to the generic search engines, the vendor web site was searched for further SQL security information, which uncovered a SQL security white paper as well as a C2 security document.

Information regarding some general security items for SQL server such as the outstanding patches that are available (located on the ICAT database) can be easily discovered. However, these patches only address public vulnerabilities and do not address zero-day or yet to be discovered attacks.

In the author's opinion, there are adequate resources to create and conduct a complete audit checklist for SQL Server 2000. An auditor can create a checklist through information available on the vendor website and the existing sqlsecurity.com checklist as a basis of a new checklist. Additionally, many vendors have applications that can be used to aid in the auditing of a SQL 2000 server.

A complete reference list of all resources used to research the product and its security can be found in Appendix A.

Of all research sites used, the following were leveraged heavily for their valuable information

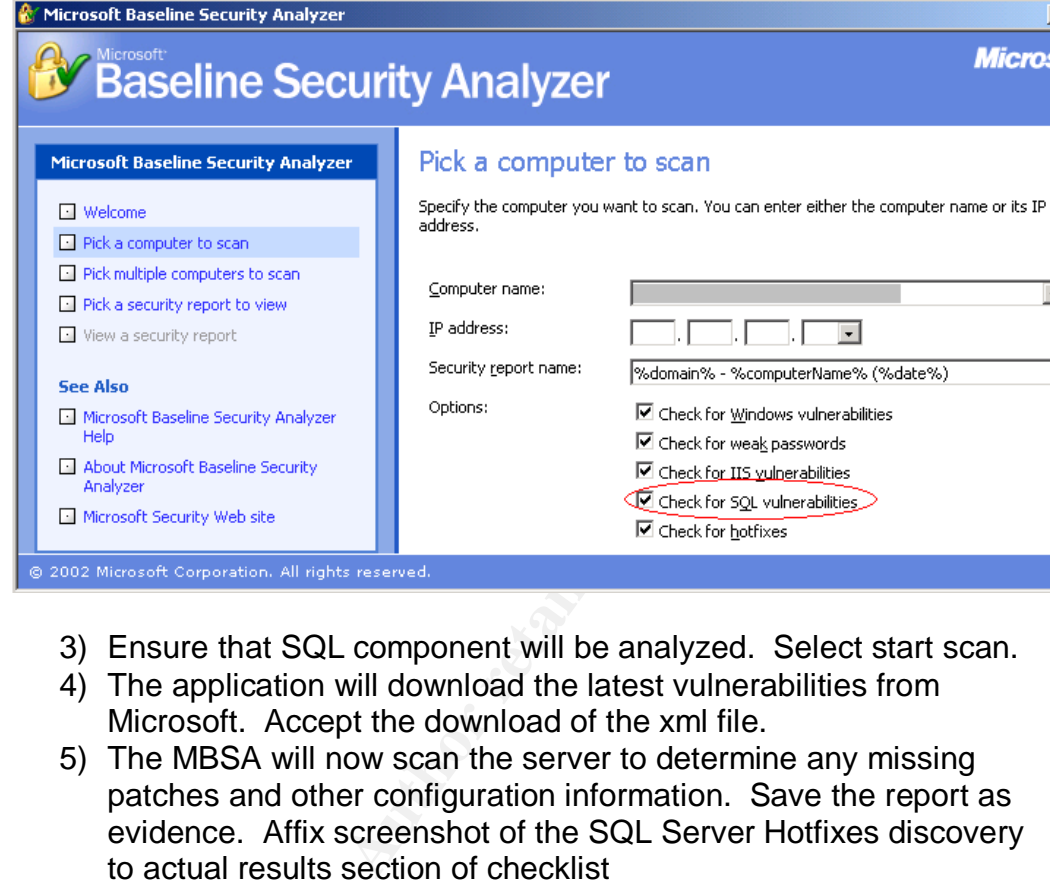
- SQL 2000 Security white paper. The vendor has created a SQL 2000 Security white paper to document vendor recommended best practices and procedures. The white paper can be found at:
<http://www.microsoft.com/sql/techinfo/administration/2000/2000SecurityWP.doc>
- SQLsecurity.com checklist was chosen due to its popularity and valuable information. The checklist can be found at:
<http://www.sqlsecurity.com/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=3&tabid=4>.
- Luis Medina has created a good series of SQL security tips. The "Empirical hacker – Protect your database" series can be found at:
http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/tip/1,289483,sid7_gci845040,00.html

Assignment 2: Create an Audit Checklist

Check 1 - Service Pack and Hot Fix levels

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Reference | Search on ICAT Metabase for known SQL Server 2000 vulnerabilities: http://icat.nist.gov Microsoft Baseline Security Analyzer (MBSA) homepage (information and download link): http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/default.asp?url=/technet/security/tools/Tools/MBSAhome.asp |
| Control Objective | Exposure to published vulnerabilities must be reduced. |
| Risk | If not patched, the server is at an elevated risk level of attack against published vulnerabilities. Server can be exploited via scripts that exist to use vulnerabilities imposed through the lack of a proper patching. |
| Likelihood | High from external sources if server is accessible or if the firewall is compromised. |
| Consequence | Attacks can range from a denial of service (Availability) to information disclosure (Confidentiality) and manipulation of data (Integrity) |
| System Compliance/ Expected Results | The test results are objective. All relevant patches for the system must be installed. The MBSA must state there are no hotfixes missing on the server |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) From the auditor's workstation with Internet access, obtain and run Microsoft Baseline Security Analyzer (MBSA). (Start Programs MBSA).2) Select "scan a computer", enter the name or IP address of the server. |

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| |  <p>3) Ensure that SQL component will be analyzed. Select start scan.</p> <p>4) The application will download the latest vulnerabilities from Microsoft. Accept the download of the xml file.</p> <p>5) The MBSA will now scan the server to determine any missing patches and other configuration information. Save the report as evidence. Affix screenshot of the SQL Server Hotfixes discovery to actual results section of checklist</p> |
| Test Results | |
| Auditor Notes / Test Results | |

Check 2 – Stored Procedures

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Reference | SQL Server Security Checklist (item 6): http://www.sqlsecurity.com/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=3&tabid=4 |
| Control Objective | Access to operating system level commands must be removed or restricted to privileged accounts. |
| Risk | Stored procedures can be used as a means to attack corporate systems. An attacker who has access to certain stored procedures can use them to attack the underlying operating system (e.g. Attacker using xp_cmdshell to delete critical files or implement a Trojan on the server). |
| Likelihood | Medium. Stored procedure functionality ranges from simple data queries to enhanced shell access to the operating system and internal network at an O/S level. |
| Consequence | Use of a stored procedure such as xp_cmdshell can grant an attacker complete control of the operating system |

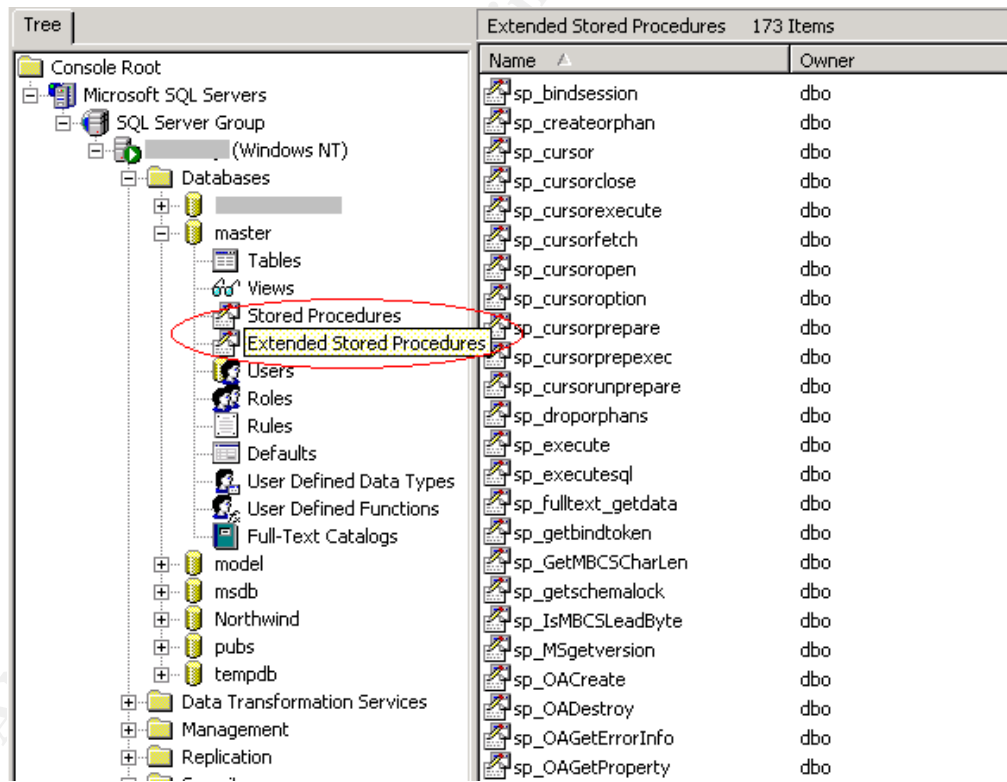
System Compliance/ Expected Results

Subjective. Stored procedures should be restricted from general usage where possible. Xp_cmdshell should be removed from the server unless it is required.

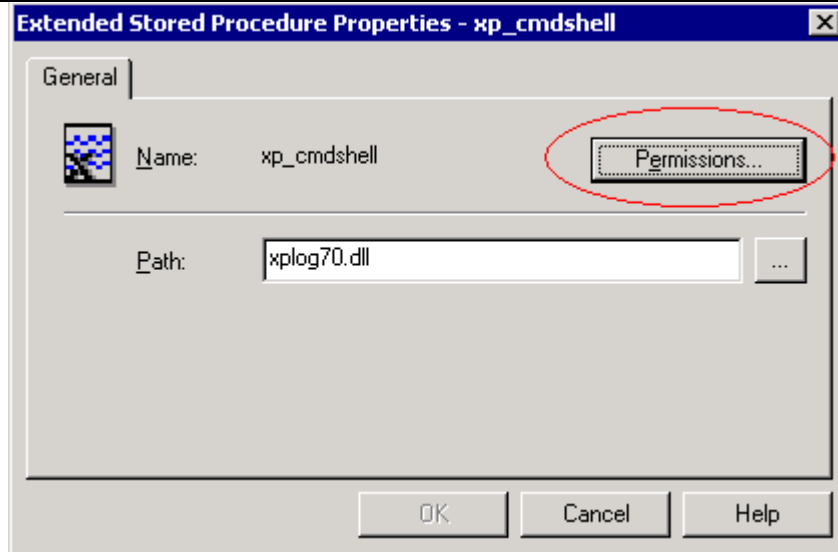
Test performed to ensure compliance

Check for existence of stored procedures and which permissions are assigned. To check the stored procedures:

- 1) Access the SQL Enterprise Manager (Start|Programs|MicrosoftSQLServer|EnterpriseManager)
- 2) Expand the SQLServerGroup and access the server.
- 3) Select the Databases tab, then access master database
- 4) Select "stored procedures" and "extended stored procedures" container.



5) Individually select all listed stored procedures found in the following table and check permissions by double-clicking name and selecting the permissions tab. Document all permissions and include in the report.

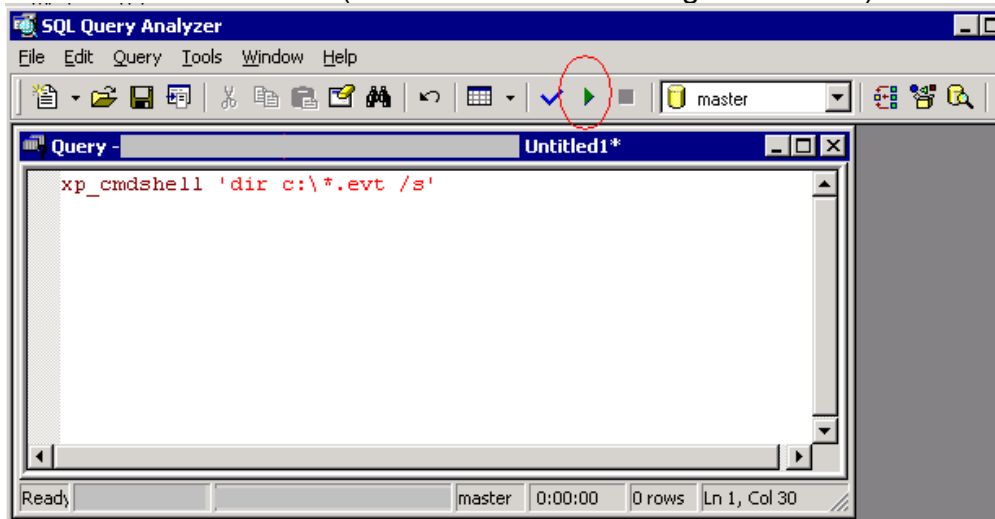


xp_fileexist
sp_ssidebug

xp_readerrorlog
xp_readmail

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- 6) Stimulus/Response test: Open Query Analyzer (Start|Programs|MicrosoftSQLServer|QueryAnalyzer). Logon when prompted. Type xp_cmdshell 'dir c:*.evt /s' in query window. Select run (circled in red in following screenshot).

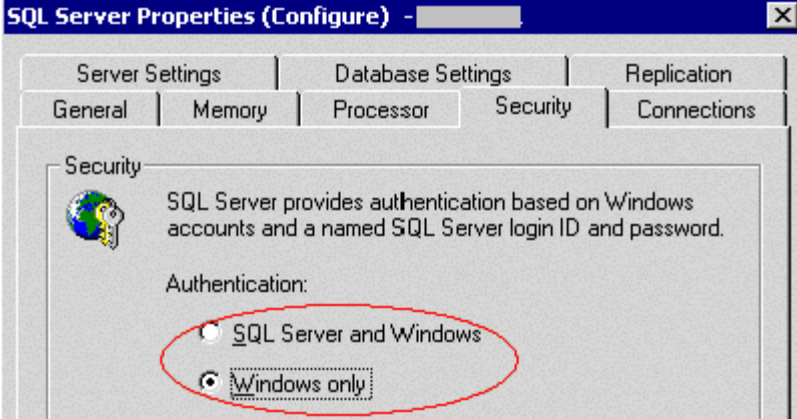


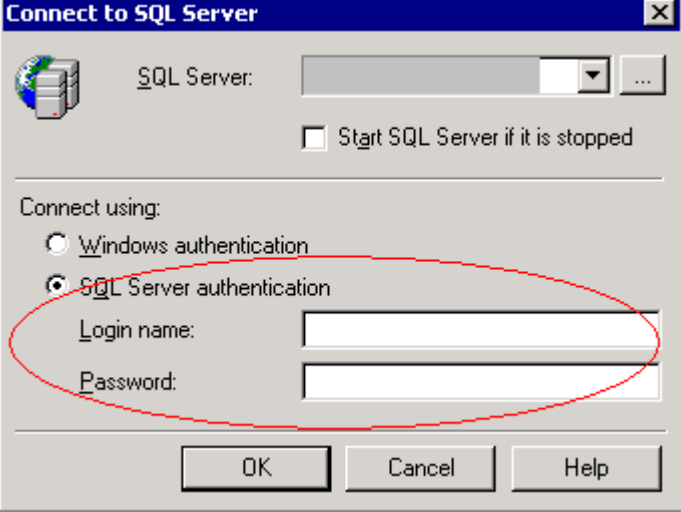
- 7) Document the findings and attach a screenshot to the report. This test will prove if xp_cmdshell is still present on the server.

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| Actual Results | |
| Auditor Notes | |

Check 3 – Authentication Model

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|-------------------|---|
| Reference | Microsoft SQL 2000 Security White paper (page 15) http://www.microsoft.com/sql/techinfo/administration/2000/2000SecurityWP.doc |
| Control Objective | A single account database should be implemented for both the operating system and the SQL server. |
| Risk | Standard SQL authentication introduces a multitude of weaknesses (blank SA passwords, passwords left in install log files, password crackers, cleartext transmission, lack of built-in password restrictions and lockouts). This opens many opportunities for a savvy attacker to find a way into the server. |
| Likelihood | High. Many systems have the SQL authentication model in place for functionality or due to the lack of awareness. |

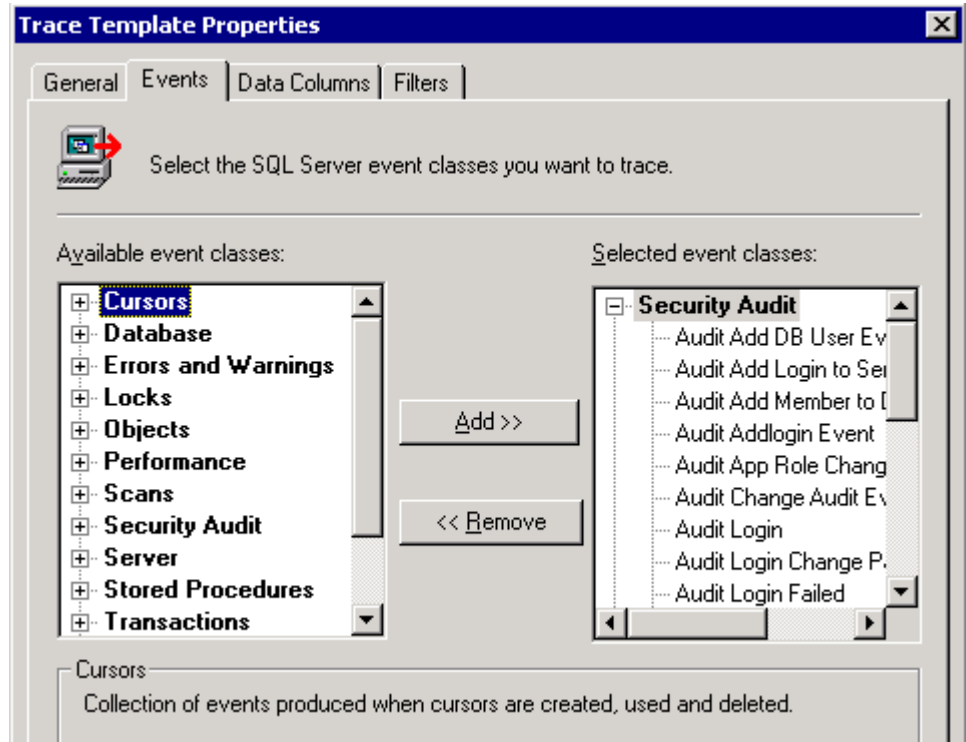
| | |
|--|---|
| Consequence | Potential loss of confidentiality if an attacker gains access to the server via one of the many vulnerabilities. |
| System Compliance/ Expected Test Results | Objective. Test must prove Windows authentication is in place. |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | <p>Check to ensure that only Windows authentication is used.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Access the enterprise manager (Start Programs MicrosoftSQLServer EnterpriseManager) 2) Right click server name, select properties 3) Open security tab. This will display the authentication mode in use (The following screenshot shows what screen should be seen). Document the setting and capture a screenshot of the server settings.  <p>Stimulus/Response test</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) Open Query Analyzer (Start Programs MicrosoftSQLServer QueryAnalyzer). 5) Enter SA account as username. Leave password as blank (the error returned will prove if SQL authentication is disabled (non trusted account) or a bad password was entered (incorrect password)). |

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| |  <p>6) Document the results. Capture a screenshot and attach to the report.</p> |
| Auditor Notes | |

Check 4 – Audit Activity on server

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| Reference | SQL Server books online (“auditing SQL Server activity” as a search parameter). |
| Control Objective | Audit logs of all actions taken on SQL server must be kept. |
| Risk | A lack of auditing will result in an inability to know when a breach has occurred. This will allow an attacker to access the system and perform malicious activities with little chance of being detected. |
| Likelihood | High. By default, auditing is not enabled in SQL server. |
| Consequence | If trace is not enabled, a log of activity will not be maintained. |
| System Compliance/ Expected Test Results | Objective. Trace template created and logs exist to document activity on the server |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | Request location of the trace template and template files or table from the administrator. Access SQL profiler. Open the trace template and logs to ensure tracing is enabled and is monitoring activity on the server. |
| | <p>To access the required settings and files,</p> <p>Access trace template</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Open SQL profiler (Start Programs MicrosoftSQLServer Profiler). 2) Select File Open TraceTemplate. Select template given by |

administrator. Once open, select "Events" tab.



Items that must be enabled are as follows. Document any deviations

- Add DB User Event
- Add Login to Server
- Add Login to Server Role
- Add Member to DB Role
- Add Login
- App Role Change Password
- Change Audit
- Login
- Login Change Password
- Login Failed
- Login GDR
- Logout
- Object Derived Permission
- Object GDR
- Object Permission
- Statement GDR
- Statement Permission

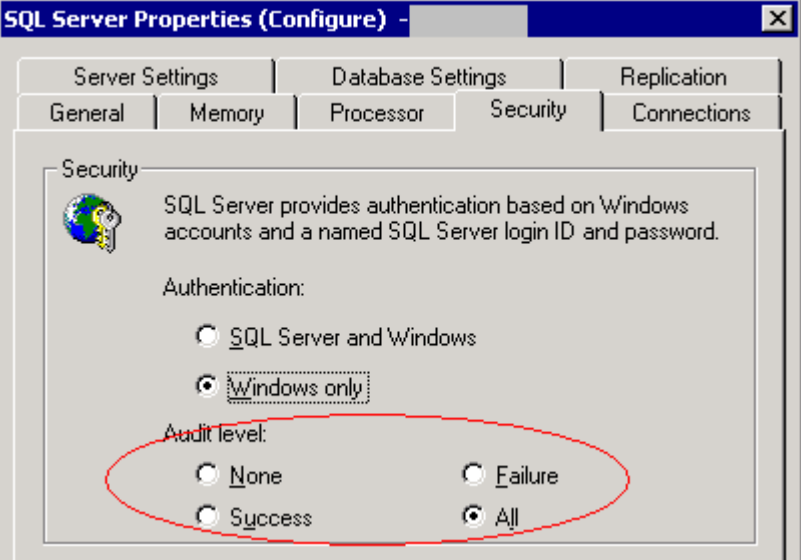
Verify Trace Results

- 3) Select File|Open|TraceFile or TraceTable (depending on storage of traces given by administrator). Point to the location

| | |
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| | <p>of trace files or trace template.</p> <p>4) Open trace and check dates for latest activity (starttime column). Note if the trace activity is recent. Document the findings.</p> |
| Auditor Notes | |

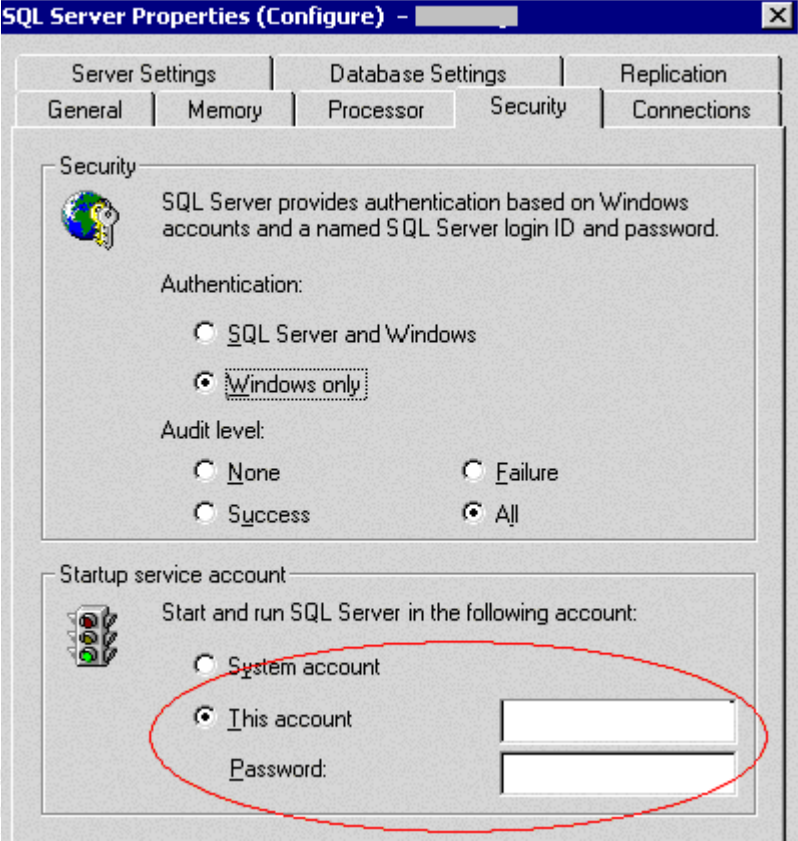
Check 5 – Logon Auditing

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| Reference | <p>Microsoft SQL 2000 Security White paper (page 54)</p> <p>http://www.microsoft.com/sql/techinfo/administration/2000/2000SecurityWP.doc</p> |
| Control Objective | All system access must be logged. |
| Risk | A lack of tracing which accounts are failing logon attempts. If not established, an attacker can attempt a brute force attack on the server and no evidence of the attack will be available. |
| Likelihood | High. Auditing of server logon attempts is not enabled by default. |
| Consequence | If not configured, no failed logon detection is possible. |
| System Compliance/ Expected Test Results | Objective. Logging of failed SQL logins is turned on (the default setting is off.) |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | <p>Ensure logon audit level for SQL server is set to all.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Access the enterprise manager (Start Programs MicrosoftSQLServer EnterpriseManager) 2) Right click the server name, select properties 3) Open the security tab. This will display the audit level in place (The following screenshot shows what options should be selected). Document the settings and capture a screenshot of the server settings. |

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| |  <p>Stimulus/Response Test:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) Access Query Analyzer (Start Programs MicrosoftSQLServer QueryAnalyzer) 5) At the logon prompt, select SQL authentication. Attempt to logon to server with user account SA and a blank password. 6) At the logon prompt, select Windows authentication. Attempt to logon to server. 7) Access the application log in Event Viewer (Start Programs AdministrativeTools EventViewer). Open log entries that show attempted logons (event 17055 shows all successful and failed logon attempts). Document findings and attach screenshots to report. |
| Auditor Notes | |

Check 6 – SQL Service start-up accounts

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Reference | <p>Microsoft SQL 2000 Security White paper (page 51) http://www.microsoft.com/sql/techinfo/administration/2000/2000SecurityWP.doc</p> <p>SQL Server Security Checklist (item 4): http://www.sqlsecurity.com/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=3&tabid=4</p> |
| Control Objective | The SQL service must be assigned a user level start-up account |
| Risk | Excessive rights assigned to SQL service. |
| Likelihood | Medium. Depends on the server configuration |
| Consequence | These rights can be used by an attacker to increase their privilege on |

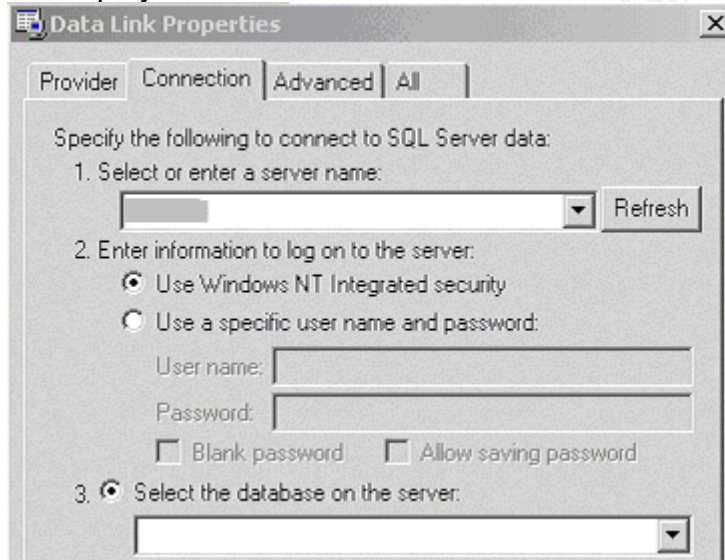
| | |
|---|--|
| | the server and network |
| System Compliance / Expected test results | Objective. MSSQLSERVER service must start as a user level account. |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | <p>Check service startup account in enterprise manager.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Access the enterprise manager (Start Programs MicrosoftSQLServer EnterpriseManager) 2) Right click the server name, select properties. 3) Open the security tab. This will display the startup account in place (The following screenshot shows what options should be selected). Document the settings and capture a screenshot of the server settings.  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) Access Windows users and groups settings (Start Programs AdministrativeTools ComputerManagement LocalUsersAndGroups). Double-click the users tab. Double click the service account name. Check the group membership. Document and attach a screenshot to the report. 5) Access Services window (Start Settings ControlPanel AdministrativeTools Services). Access MSSQLServer service by double-clicking the service. Access the logon tab. Confirm which account is being used to |

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| | start the service. Document the account and attach a screenshot to the report. |
| Auditor Notes | |

Check 7 – Guest user access

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| Reference | SQL Server Security Checklist (item 8): http://www.sqlsecurity.com/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=3&tabid=4 Microsoft SQL 2000 Security White paper (page 58) http://www.microsoft.com/sql/techinfo/administration/2000/2000SecurityWP.doc |
| Control Objective | Only authenticated accounts may access the SQL server. |
| Risk | Non-authenticated users have access to a database through the guest account. Potential disclosure of data is possible through guest access. |
| Likelihood | Medium. Depends on the server configuration. |
| Consequence | Disclosure of information is possible if the guest account has access. |
| System Compliance/ Expected test results | Objective. The guest account is removed from all sensitive databases. The guest account at the operating system level must be disabled. |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | <p>Check permissions for the guest account on sensitive databases.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Access enterprise manager (Start Programs MicrosoftSQLServer EnterpriseManager) 2) Expand the server group, open the target server then access the databases tab. Expand the database in question. Select the users tab. All users allowed access are shown. 3) Ensure the guest account is not listed and that only required groups/users are listed as having access to the database. Document the findings and attach a screenshot to the report. <p>Check guest account at O/S level</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) Access Windows users and groups settings (Start Programs AdministrativeTools ComputerManagement LocalUsersAndGroups). 5) Double-click users tab. Double click guest account. Ensure “account is disabled” box is checked. Document findings and attach a screenshot. <p>Stimulus/Response test: Attempt to access the server with an account not listed as having access to ensure that access is denied.</p> |

- 6) Logon to the auditor workstation as a user that does not exist on the target server (this will force a guest connection when data access is performed).
- 7) Open Microsoft Access from the auditor workstation. Close any wizard that appears when opening the application.
- 8) Select the “new data access page”. Choose design view. The “Data link properties” screen will open.
- 9) Enter the server name and select Windows Integrated Security. The following screenshot shows the screen that should be displayed.



- 10) Select the “select database on the server” pulldown box. Access should be denied. Document the findings and attach a screenshot of any errors.

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| Auditor Notes | |
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Check 8 – Alerting

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|-------------------|---|
| Reference | SQL Server Security Checklist (item 17): http://www.sqlsecurity.com/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=3&tabid=4 |
| Control Objective | An alerting mechanism must be established and notification established. |
| Risk | A lack of alerting would prohibit response to malicious activity. This would allow an attacker ample opportunity to attack the server if no detection and response was possible. |
| Likelihood | High. Alerting is not configured by default. |

| | |
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| Consequence | No response would be possible if alerting is not enabled. |
| System Compliance/ Expected Test Results | Objective. Alerts are configured and notification will be sent. |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | <p>Access the server in SQL Enterprise Manager. Select Management SQL Server Agent Alerts. Check for the existence of an alert for severity 14 and that an operator is defined to receive a page or e-mail.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Access Enterprise Manager (Start Programs MicrosoftSQLServer EnterpriseManager) 2) Expand the server group, open the server and access the management tab. Select "SQL Server agent", then alerts. 3) Check for a listing with severity 14. Attach screenshot of alerts screen. 4) Double click the severity 14 item. Click the "Response" tab. Note all of the recipients of alerts. Attach a screenshot of the recipients and the method of alerting. |
| Auditor Notes | |

Check 9 – TCP/IP Port filtering

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| Reference | <p>Medina, Luis, Empirical Hacker – Protect your database series - part one, checklist item 7. http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/tip/1,289483,sid7_gci845040,00.html</p> |
| Control Objective | Network controls should be in place to protect the server data. |
| Risk | Malware can use high-level ports to communicate with an attacker and allow access to server. |
| Likelihood | Medium. Previous examples of malware that allowed for remote control of the server included backorifice and netbus. |
| Consequence | If not restricted, any port can be used on the server. Malware would be able to report back to an attacker and open a connection through the corporate firewall. |
| System Compliance / Expected test | Objective. All ports other than the required baseline ports are filtered at the O/S level. |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| results | |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | <p>Check TCP/IP filtering.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) On the server desktop, right-click the “My Network Places” icon, select properties. Right-Click “Local Area Connection”, select properties. Double click Internet Protocol (TCP/IP). Select the advanced tab, then options. The following screen capture shows what should be displayed. <div data-bbox="467 485 1268 1056" data-label="Image"> </div> 2) Select TCP/IP filtering, select properties. All filtered ports will be displayed at this point. Document and attach a screenshot to the report. <p>Stimulus/Response Tests:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) From the auditor workstation on the LAN, run NMAP (windows executables available at http://sourceforge.net/projects/nmapwin.) Enter the IP address of the SQL server. Check the port range box and enter 1-65535. This will test which ports are accessible on the server. Ensure that all TCP and UDP ports are scanned (by repeating the test with UDP scan selected). Attach both screenshots (TCP and UDP scans) of discovered ports to the report. 4) Execute fport (executables available at http://www.foundstone.com/knowledge/free_tools.html) on the server. Save the report and attach a screenshot to the report. |

Check 10 – SQL Port

| | |
|--|--|
| Reference | <p>Medina, Luis, Empirical Hacker – Protect your database series - part one, checklist item 2. http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/tip/1,289483,sid7_gci845040,00.html</p> <p>Partlow, Joe, Microsoft SQL Server 2000 Security Overview (page 6) http://www.giac.org/practical/Joe_Partlow_GSEC.doc</p> |
| Control Objective | Network controls should be in place to protect the server data. |
| Risk | Attackers will portscan entire subnets on port 1433 (automated attacks), or will use Sqlping2 (port 1434) to manually find SQL servers on the Internet. |
| Likelihood | Depends on the firewall configuration. |
| Consequence | A potential attacker would know of the existence of the SQL server. An attacker can then use automated tools to attack server after initial the reconnaissance. |
| System Compliance/ Expected test results | Objective. The port value should be changed from the default and the server port should be hidden. This will change both the listening port and hide the actual SQL port in use from sqlping2. |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Access Enterprise Manager (Start Programs MicrosoftSQLServer EnterpriseManager) 2) Expand the server group, right click the servername and select properties. 3) Select the Network Configuration tab. Select the TCP/IP protocol option and select properties. 4) Document the port number and determine if the server is listed as hidden (“hide server” checkbox selected). <p>Stimulus/Response tests:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5) Run fport on the server to confirm which port the SQL Server is listening to. Document findings and attach screenshot. 6) Obtain sqlping2 from www.sqlsecurity.com/scripts.asp. 7) Run SQLping2 against the server IP address. 8) Document the findings and attach a screenshot to the report. |
| Auditor Notes | |

Check 11 –Password Strength

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Reference | Cert Advisory # 635463: http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/635463 SQL Server Security Checklist (item 3): http://www.sqlsecurity.com/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=3&tabid=4 |
| Control Objective | All passwords must meet corporate minimum length requirements |
| Risk | Simple and blank passwords can be easily guessed and/or be broken by an attacker with a dictionary attack. |
| Likelihood | Medium. SQL Server 2000 allows for a default password of <null> for the SA account. Factors such as personnel security training/awareness and the initial compromise required to access the password hashes mitigate the potential loss through weak passwords (if SQL authentication is used). |
| Consequence | Loss of all Confidentiality, Integrity and Availability through the guess of a simple administrative level password. |
| System Compliance: | Objective. Security policy states minimum password strength (6 characters and complex password requirements) must be followed to meet company security policy. This applies to both SQL and O/S level passwords. The system must reject weak passwords at an O/S level. |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) From the auditor's workstation with Internet access, obtain and run Microsoft Baseline Security Analyzer (MBSA). (Start Programs MBSA). 2) Select "scan a computer", enter the name or IP address of the server. 3) Ensure that SQL component will be analyzed. Select start scan. 4) The application will download the latest vulnerabilities from Microsoft. Accept the download of the xml file. 5) The MBSA will now scan the server to determine which authentication mode the server is using and will determine if there are any weak SQL passwords on the SQL server. |

| | | |
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| ✓ | Domain Controller Test | SQL Server is not running on a domain controller. What was scanned |
| ✓ | SQL Server Security Mode | SQL Server authentication mode is set to Windows Only. What was scanned |
| ✓ | Registry Permissions | The Everyone group does not have more than Read access to the SQL Server registry keys. What was scanned |
| ✓ | CmdExec role | CmdExec is restricted to sysadmin only. What was scanned |
| ✓ | Folder Permissions | Permissions on the SQL Server installation folders are set properly. What was scanned |
| | SQL Account Password Test | The check was skipped because SQL Server is operating in Windows-Only authentication mode. What was scanned |

Stimulus/Response Test:

- 1) Request that the administrator create a test account and supply you with the password.
- 2) Logon to the account and attempt to change password (Ctrl-Alt-Del, change password) to a null value. The system should reject this password. Document the test results and attach to the report.
- 3) Attempt to change password to "password". The system should reject this password. Document the test results and attach to the report.
- 4) Attempt to change password to "qwerty123!". The system should accept this password. Document the test results and attach to the report.

SQL password strength testing with a dictionary attack (use only for systems with SQL authentication implemented).

- 1) Obtain the SQLBF brute force/dictionary cracker for SQL server (<http://www.cgure.net/tools.jsp?id=10>).
- 2) Obtain a dictionary file if one is unavailable. A dictionary file can be obtained from <ftp://ftp.ox.ac.uk/pub/wordlists/dictionaries/>. Obtain the pocket-dict.gz dictionary. Expand with winzip and save to the same directory as the sqlbf application. Rename the file to pocket.dict.
- 3) Open the Query Analyzer (Start|Programs|MicrosoftSQLServer|QueryAnalyzer).
- 4) Issue the following command: "select name, password from master..sysxlogins". This will extract all accounts and passwords stored on the SQL server and display the hash values. Select all entries, copy with <ctrl-c> and save to a new text file called sqlhash.txt in the same directory as the sqlbf application. Modify the text file so that there is the name, followed by a comma, followed by the hash value of the user password. Ensure that only the users and hashes remain in the file, ensure the "null null"

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| | <p>values at the end of the file are removed. This file will be the target of our dictionary attack.</p> <p>5) Open a command prompt (Start Run cmd). Change the working directory to the location of the sqlbf application. Issue the following command: sqlbf -u sqlhash.txt -d pocket.dict -r hashresults.txt. Document any found accounts and their passwords. Attach findings to the report.</p> |
| Auditor Notes | |

Check 12 – SQL ACLS

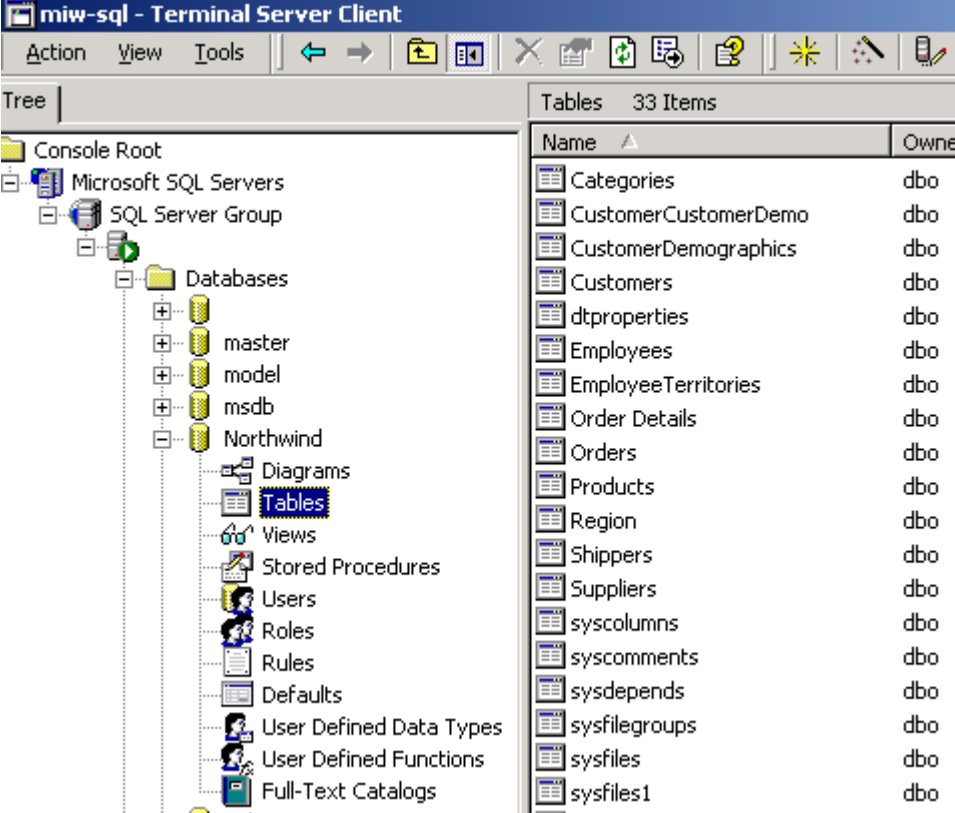
| | |
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| Reference | <p>Microsoft SQL 2000 Security White paper (page 53) http://www.microsoft.com/sql/techinfo/administration/2000/2000SecurityWP.doc</p> <p>SQL Server Security Checklist (item 5): http://www.sqlsecurity.com/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=3&tabid=4</p> |
| Control Objective | Users must be given least privilege to data. |
| Risk | An attacker can obtain information through weak O/S Access Control. |
| Likelihood | High. Published vulnerabilities exist that disclose log files are stored with all users having access and can potentially contain system accounts and passwords if SQL authentication is used. |
| Consequence | Elevation of privilege can occur resulting in loss of confidentiality. |
| System Compliance/ Expected test results | Objective. Group and individual permissions should only allow administrators, system and SQL account access to the SQL files at an OS level. |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | <p>Access the security permissions for the SQL server directory under program files folder. Ensure that users do not have access to the directories unless it is required for functionality. Ensure the “everyone” account is removed from the ACL list. Document any deviations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Open a command prompt on the server (Start Run cmd). 2) Issue the command cacls “c:\program files\Microsoft SQL Server\mssql\data*.*” /c. (replace the path as required to point to the location of the database files). Redirect the output to a file and attach to the report. Document any deviations. 3) Issue the command cacls “c:\program files\Microsoft SQL Server*.*” /c. (replace the path as required to point to the location of the SQL Server installation). Redirect the output to a file and attach to the report . Document any deviations. 4) Issue the command cacls “c:\program files\Microsoft SQL Server\mssql\bin*.*” /c. (replace path as required to point to location of |

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| | database files). Redirect output to a diskette. Document any deviations. |
| Auditor Notes | |

Check 13 – Excessive account permissions

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| Reference | Microsoft SQL 2000 Security White paper (page 30) http://www.microsoft.com/sql/techinfo/administration/2000/2000SecurityWP.doc |
| Control Objective | Users must be given least privilege to data. |
| Risk | Users may see information to which they are not privileged. |
| Likelihood | Medium. Depends on the server security configuration. |
| Consequence | Accidental or malicious activity on sensitive information can occur if the permissions exceed the required level. |
| System Compliance/ Expected Test Results | Subjective. Least privilege assigned is to users. Only the owner of the system will be able to determine who should be given access and what level of access control is required. |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | Review the rights to all tables containing sensitive data in SQL. Check the rights to the views created. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Access Enterprise Manager (Start Programs MicrosoftSQLServer EnterpriseManager) 2) Expand the server group, open the server then access the databases tab. Select the database in question. Select the tables tab. All available tables are shown. |

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| | |
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| |  <p>3) Check permissions on table to ensure that only authorized individuals have required access. Document the findings.</p> |
| Auditor Notes | |

Check 14 – File Sharing/NetBIOS settings

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|--------------------|---|
| Reference | Medina, Luis, Empirical Hacker – Protect your database series - part one, checklist item 10. http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/tip/1,289483,sid7_gci845040,00.html |
| Control Objective | Only SQL processes are allowed to run on the server. |
| Risk | Additional usage of the server would reduce the performance of the server. This would impact availability of the server and introduce potential vulnerabilities (such as vulnerabilities introduced by applications.) |
| Likelihood | Medium. Depends on server configuration. |
| Consequence | If not restricted, the additional functionality could open various vulnerabilities and slow access to the data. |
| System Compliance/ | Subjective. No shares other than those required are established (Please note that some shares will be required for the system and some required |

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| Expected test results | applications (e.g. Arcserve) to function properly). |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | Access a command prompt (Start Run cmd) and type net share. The resulting output will display all shares on the server. Redirect the output to a file and attach a screenshot to the report. |
| Auditor Notes | |

Check 15 – Patch Policies and Procedures

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| Reference | SANS Ottawa Conference, D Hoelzer. |
| Control Objective | Exposure to published vulnerabilities must be reduced. |
| Risk | A lack of procedures and process can result in unpatched server. |
| Likelihood | Medium. Depends on the organization. |
| Consequence | If policies, guidelines and procedures do not exist, the server is at a high risk level due to a non-structured patch cycle. |
| System Compliance: | Subjective. Ensure the policy and procedures for patch maintenance exists. Check to see if the administrative staff follows the mandated procedures. |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | Request the policy and procedures for patching of the servers. Review the procedures to ensure that testing is being performed prior to deployment. Ensure that all file changes introduced by the patching process are documented and that a general timeline between the release of a patch and its implementation is dictated in the management policy. |
| Auditor Notes | |

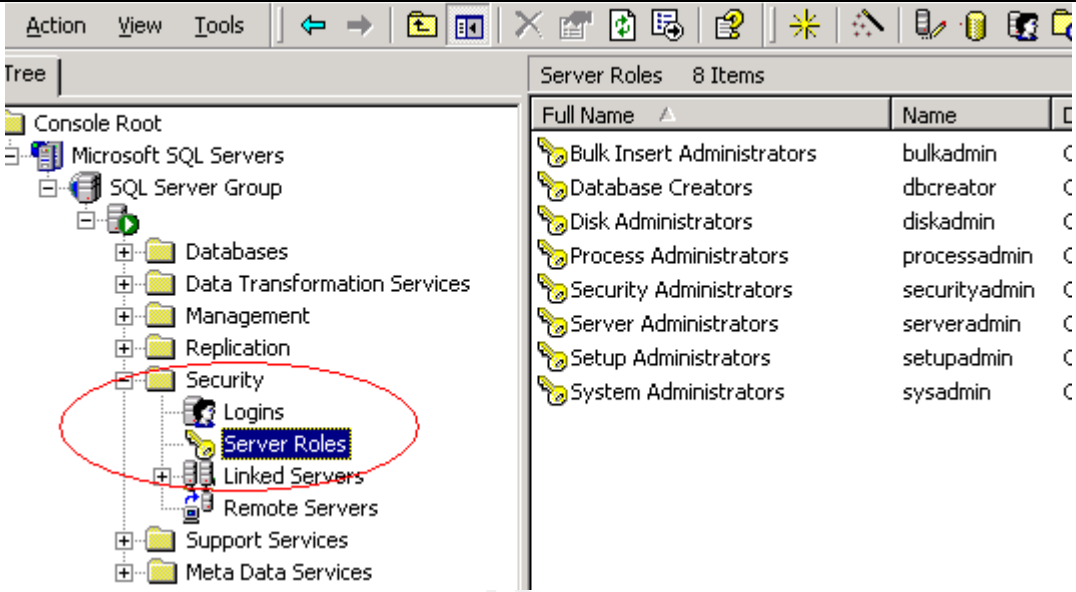
Check 16 – Additional applications and services on server

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Reference | Medina, Luis, Empirical Hacker – Protect your database series - part one, checklist item 6. http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/tip/1,289483,sid7_gci845040,00.html |
| Control Objective | Only SQL processes are allowed to run on the server. |
| Risk | Applications can introduce vulnerabilities. Additional network ports may be |

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| | opened and introduce additional points of access for an attacker. |
| Likelihood | Medium. Depends on the server configuration. |
| Consequence | Additional applications and services can introduce additional security holes that may be used by an attacker to gain privileges. |
| System Compliance / Expected test results | Objective. Only SQL and its associated applications should exist on server. |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Check Control Panel Add/remove programs (Start Settings ControlPanel Add/Remove Programs). Document applications found. 2) Run FPORT on the server to check for applications utilizing the network. Attach a screenshot to the report. |
| Auditor Notes | |

Check 17 – Server Roles

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| Reference | <p>SQL Server Security Checklist (item 18): http://www.sqlsecurity.com/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=3&tabid=4</p> <p>Microsoft SQL 2000 Security White paper (page 16) http://www.microsoft.com/sql/techinfo/administration/2000/2000SecurityWP.doc</p> |
| Control Objective | Users must be given least privilege to the data. |
| Risk | Server roles can be used to elevate privilege. An attacker can embed their own account in a role in order to elevate their privilege. |
| Likelihood | Medium. Roles should be reviewed to ensure that members are given appropriate privilege. |
| Consequence | Server roles contain many associated rights. Attacker can elevate privilege by adding account to server role. |
| System Compliance/ Expected test results | Subjective. Only authorized accounts should be assigned to roles. Only the data owner can determine which accounts belong in a specific role. |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Access SQL Enterprise Manager (Start Programs MicrosoftSQLServer EnterpriseManager) 2) Select the server, choose security, then “server roles”. |

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| |  <p>3) Double-click the individual roles in the right pane and document the accounts listed as having membership.</p> <p>4) Interview the data owner to ensure the proper accounts are assigned to the role membership.</p> |
| Auditor Notes | |

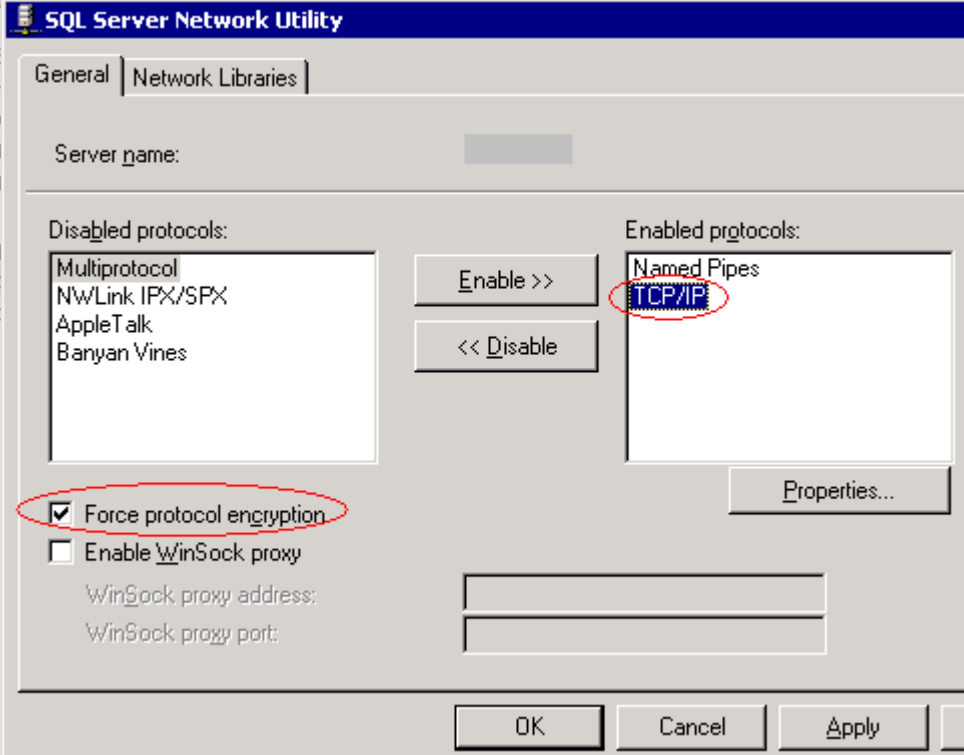
Check 18 – SQL Database Encryption

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| Reference | Microsoft SQL 2000 Security White paper (page 11) http://www.microsoft.com/sql/techinfo/administration/2000/2000SecurityWP.doc |
| Control Objective | SQL database files should be encrypted to limit exposure. |
| Risk | Databases stored in clear-text can be copied or opened by unauthorized individuals. |
| Likelihood | Medium. On-disk encryption is rarely implemented, however, due to the default permissions, regular users do not have access to the database directory by default. |
| Consequence | An attacker can copy database files and access data at their leisure. |
| System Compliance/ Expected test results | Objective. Encrypting File System (EFS) is enabled and the database files are encrypted. |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | Access the location of the mdf files. Right click the directory and select properties. In the folder properties window, select the advanced button. Ensure the “encrypt contents to secure data” checkbox is checked. Document the findings. Attach a screenshot to the report. The following screenshot |

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| | <p>displays what should be seen.</p>  |
| Auditor Notes | |

Check 19 – Network Protocol Libraries / On-The-Wire Encryption

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| Reference | <p>SQL Server Security Checklist (item 2): http://www.sqlsecurity.com/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=3&tabid=4</p> <p>Microsoft SQL 2000 Security White paper (page 10) http://www.microsoft.com/sql/techinfo/administration/2000/2000SecurityWP.doc</p> |
| Control Objective | All data must be encrypted during transmission on network. |
| Risk | An attacker can view passwords and sensitive data in clear-text. |
| Likelihood | Low. Due to the network using switches rather than hubs, there is a greater difficulty in “sniffing” the traffic between other clients and the SQL server. |
| Consequence | Sensitive information and SQL passwords can be stolen if information is transmitted in a clear-text format. |
| System Compliance/ Expected test results | Objective. Test proves that network encryption is enforced. |
| Test performed to | 1) Access the SQL Enterprise Manager |

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| <p>ensure compliance</p> | <p>(Start Programs MicrosoftSQLServer EnterpriseManager)</p> <p>2) Right click the server and select properties. Access the network configuration window at the bottom of the general tab.</p> <p>3) Select TCP/IP. Ensure “Force Protocol Encryption” checkbox is established. (The following screenshot shows what should be displayed.)</p>  <p>4) Document the findings and attach a screenshot to the report.</p> |
| <p>Auditor Notes</p> | |

Check 20– Backup/Restore Procedures

| | |
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| <p>Reference</p> | <p>Microsoft SQL 2000 Security White paper (page 56) http://www.microsoft.com/sql/techinfo/administration/2000/2000SecurityWP.doc</p> |
| <p>Control Objective</p> | <p>System data must be archived and restore procedures must be known by staff.</p> |
| <p>Risk</p> | <p>Loss of availability and integrity of data for a prolonged period of time. System recovery would be impossible if tapes are unavailable or unreadable.</p> |
| <p>Likelihood</p> | <p>Medium, depending on organization.</p> |
| <p>Consequence</p> | <p>If proper backup and restore procedures do not exist or are not followed,</p> |

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| | a longer time for recovery will be required to restore functionality. |
| System Compliance/ Expected test results | Subjective. Tapes and documentation exist. Administrative staff follow procedures. The administrator was able to find the procedural documentation and recent tapes. A test restoration was performed on the server. A tape rotation is in place that will allow for off-site storage of archived data. |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | Complete stimulus/response testing is not possible as performing a test restore on live server may adversely impact server availability. Document where tapes are being stored. Determine the last time a test recovery was performed. Verify that the recovery procedure documentation exists. Determine if the tape rotation is in use by verifying labels on tapes to ensure a rotation is established. Determine if the tapes are held off-site. |
| Auditor Notes | |

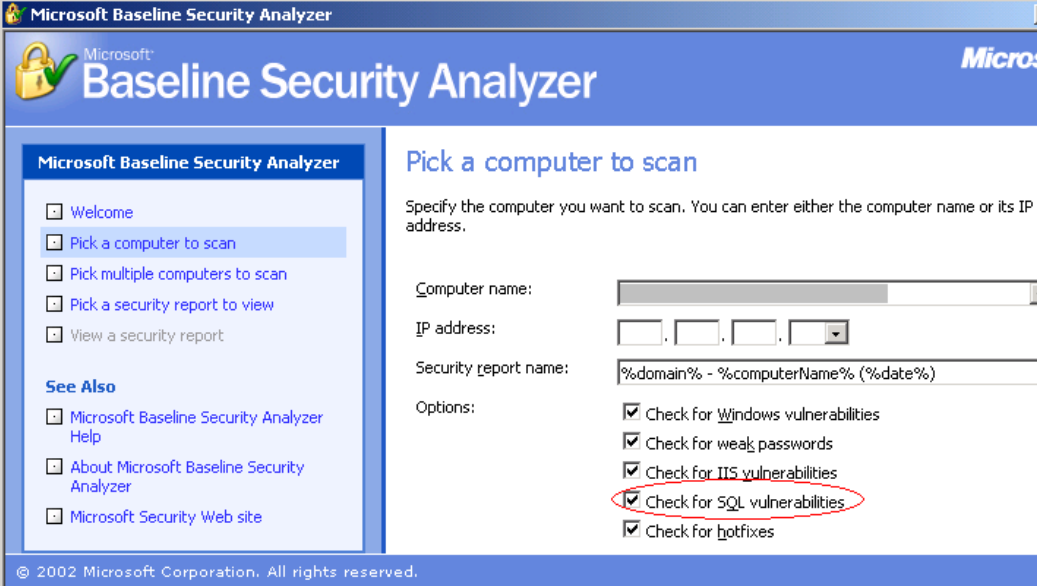
Check 21 – Physical Security of Server

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| Reference | Microsoft SQL 2000 Security White paper (page 59) http://www.microsoft.com/sql/techinfo/administration/2000/2000SecurityWP.doc SQL Server Security Checklist (item 15): http://www.sqlsecurity.com/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=3&tabid=4 |
| Control Objective | All servers must be placed in physically secured location. |
| Risk | Ease of attack if physical access to the server is gained. Accidental loss of availability through unintentional or intentional physical damage. Elevated risk of theft. |
| Likelihood | Intentional attack is low. Only employees have access to the corporate premises. Loss of availability is ranked as medium to high if the server is located in an unsecured location. |
| Consequence | Potential loss of availability and confidentiality. |
| System Compliance: | Objective. The server is in access-controlled environment. |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | Manually verify location of the server. If the server is in a separate room, check for a lock on the door and determine who has access to room. Document the findings in the report. |
| Auditor Notes | |

Assignment 3: Conduct the audit

Audit 1 - Service Pack and Hot Fix levels

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| Reference | Search on ICAT Metabase for known SQL Server 2000 vulnerabilities: http://icat.nist.gov Microsoft Baseline Security Analyzer (MBSA) homepage (information and download link): http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/default.asp?url=/technet/security/tools/Tools/MBSAhome.asp |
| Control Objective | Exposure to published vulnerabilities must be reduced. |
| Risk | If not patched, the server is at an elevated risk level of attack against published vulnerabilities. Server can be exploited via scripts that exist to use vulnerabilities imposed through the lack of a proper patching. |
| Likelihood | High from external sources if server is accessible or if the firewall is compromised. |
| Consequence | Attacks can range from a denial of service (Availability) to information disclosure (Confidentiality) and manipulation of data (Integrity) |
| System Compliance/ Expected Results | The test results are objective. All relevant patches for the system must be installed. The MBSA must state there are no hotfixes missing on the server |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | Scan SQL Server from MBSA 1) From the auditor's workstation with Internet access, obtain and run Microsoft Baseline Security Analyzer (MBSA). (Start Programs MBSA). 2) Select "scan a computer", enter the name or IP address of the server. |

| |  <p>3) Ensure that SQL component will be analyzed. Select start scan.</p> <p>4) The application will download the latest vulnerabilities from Microsoft. Accept the download of the xml file.</p> <p>5) The MBSA will now scan the server to determine any missing patches and other configuration information. Save the report as evidence. Affix screenshot of the SQL Server Hotfixes discovery to actual results section of checklist</p> | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|-------|--------|---|---------------------|--|
| Actual Results | <p>SQL Server Scan Results</p> <p>Vulnerabilities</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="422 1186 1299 1297"> <thead> <tr> <th>Score</th> <th>Issue</th> <th>Result</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✘</td> <td>SQL Server Hotfixes</td> <td>5 hotfixes are missing or could not be confirmed. What was scanned Result details How to correct this</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Score | Issue | Result | ✘ | SQL Server Hotfixes | 5 hotfixes are missing or could not be confirmed. What was scanned Result details How to correct this |
| Score | Issue | Result | | | | | |
| ✘ | SQL Server Hotfixes | 5 hotfixes are missing or could not be confirmed. What was scanned Result details How to correct this | | | | | |
| Auditor Notes / Test Results | Fail. The MBSA has determined that 5 hotfixes are missing from the server. After discussions with the administrator, it was discovered the patches are currently under review and are slated for implementation within two weeks. | | | | | | |

Audit 2 – Stored Procedures

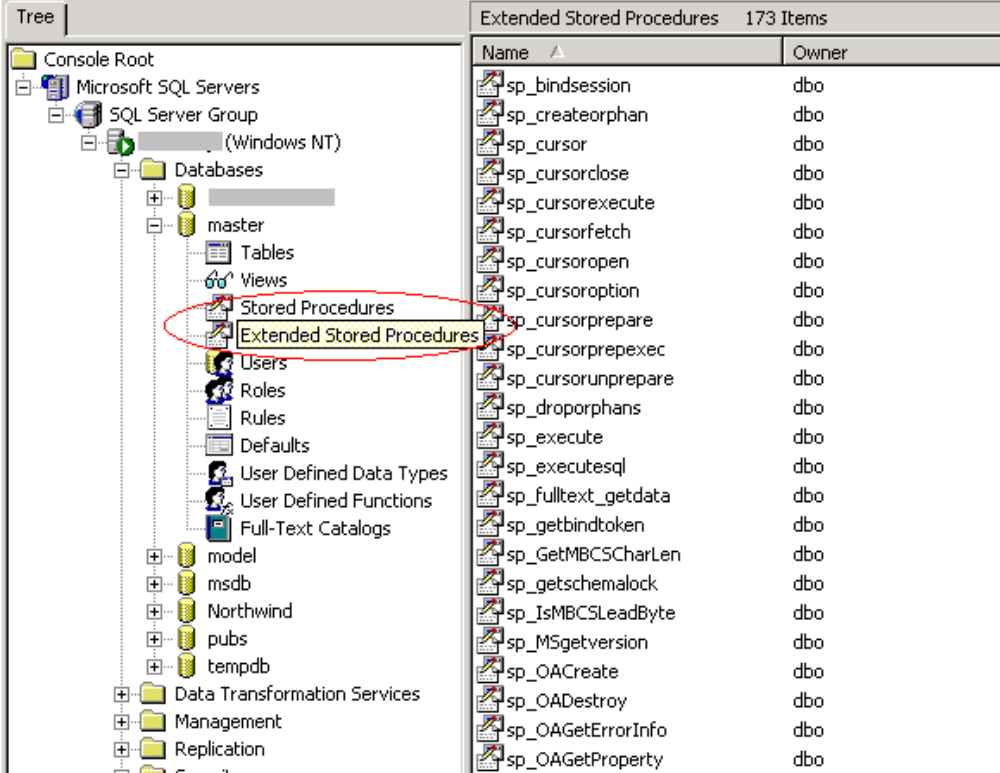
| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Reference | SQL Server Security Checklist (item 6): http://www.sqlsecurity.com/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=3&tabid=4 |
| Control Objective | Access to operating system level commands must be removed or restricted to privileged accounts. |
| Risk | Stored procedures can be used as a means to attack corporate systems. An attacker who has access to certain stored procedures can use them |

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| | to attack the underlying operating system (e.g. Attacker using xp_cmdshell to delete critical files or implement a Trojan on the server). |
| Likelihood | Medium. Stored procedure functionality ranges from simple data queries to enhanced shell access to the operating system and internal network at an O/S level. |
| Consequence | Use of a stored procedure such as xp_cmdshell can grant an attacker complete control of the operating system |
| System Compliance/ Expected Results | Subjective. Stored procedures should be restricted from general usage where possible. Xp_cmdshell should be removed from the server unless it is required. |

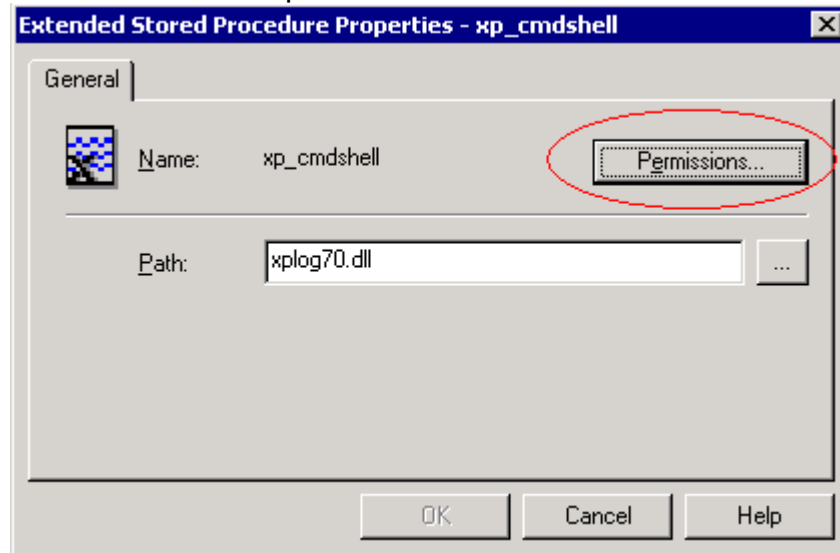
Test performed to ensure compliance

Check for existence of stored procedures and which permissions are assigned. To check the stored procedures:

- 1) Access the SQL Enterprise Manager (Start|Programs|MicrosoftSQLServer|EnterpriseManager)
- 2) Expand the SQLServerGroup and access the server.
- 3) Select the Databases tab, then access master database
- 4) Select “stored procedures” and “extended stored procedures” container.



5) Individually select all listed stored procedures found in the following table and check permissions by double-clicking name and selecting the permissions tab. Document all permissions and include in the report.



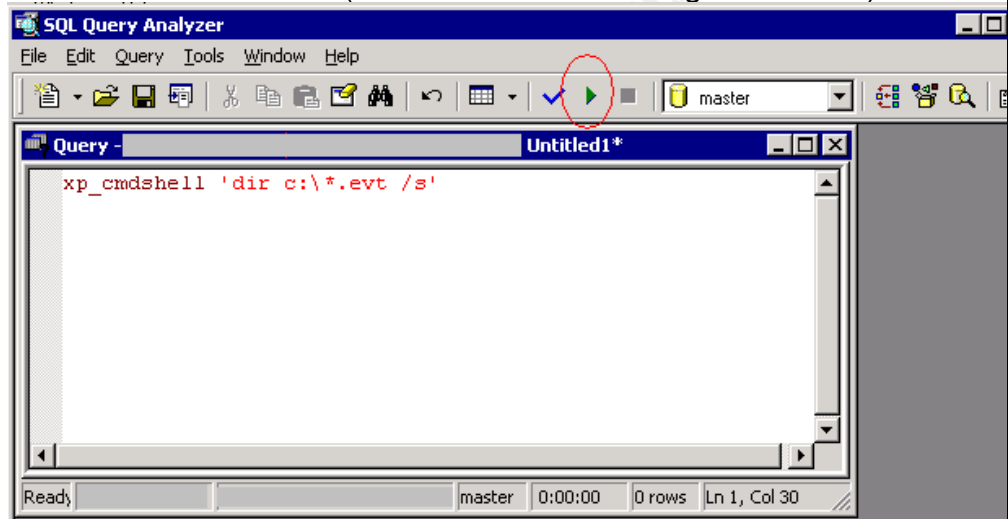
xp_fileexist
sp_sdebug
xp_availablemedia
xp_cmdshell
xp_deletemail
xp_dirtree

xp_readerrorlog
xp_readmail
xp_revokelgin
xp_runwebtask
xp_schedulersignal
xp_sendmail

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Sp_OADestroy
 Sp_OASetProperty
 SP_OAStop,
 Xp_regaddmultistring

6) Stimulus/Response test: Open Query Analyzer (Start|Programs|MicrosoftSQLServer|QueryAnalyzer). Logon when prompted. Type xp_cmdshell 'dir c:*.evt /s' in query window. Select run (circled in red in following screenshot).



7) Document the findings and attach a screenshot to the report. This test will prove if xp_cmdshell is still present on the server.

Actual Results

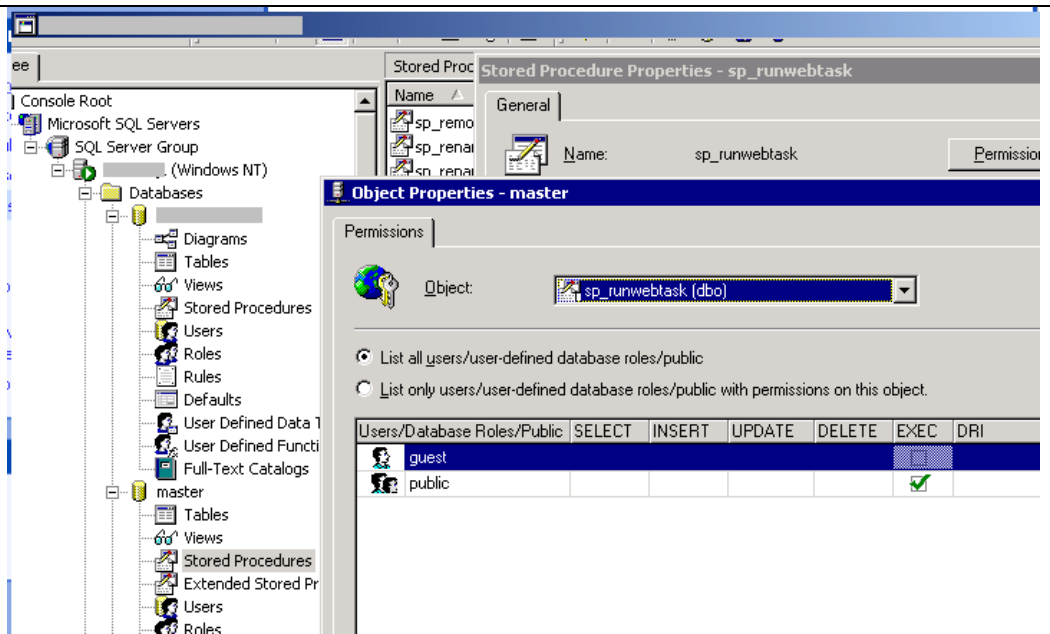
All of the stored procedure permissions on the server are at a default value. Public (e.g. everyone) has access to many of the stored procedures.

Permissions:

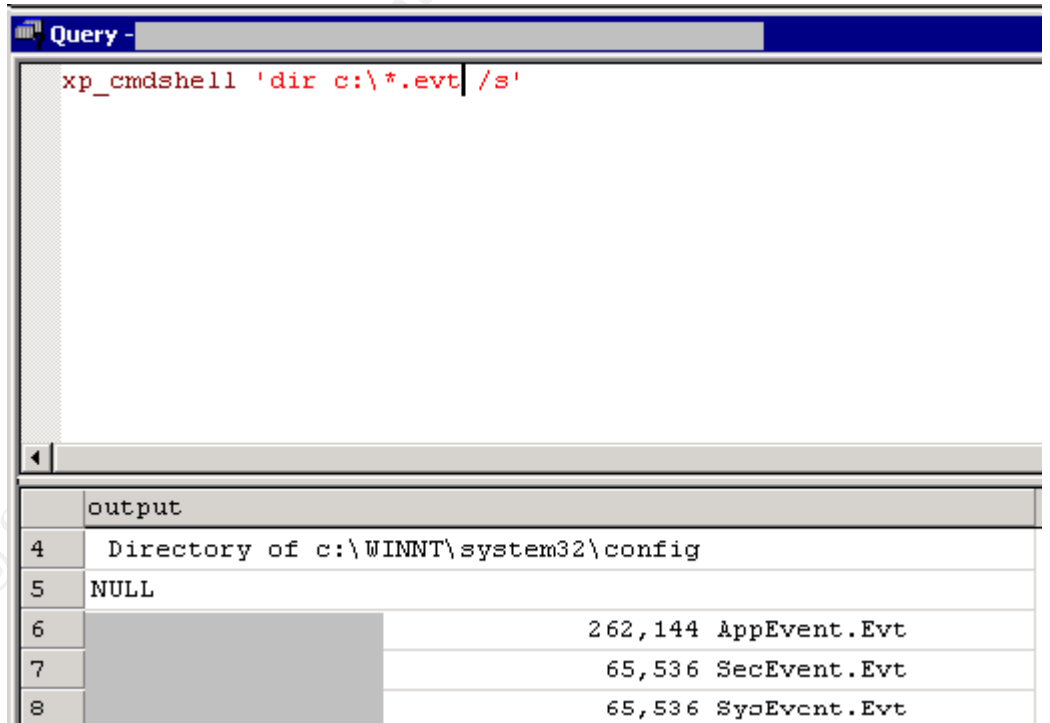
xp_cmdshell: Guest and public: None listed
 xp_fileexist: Guest: None Public: Checked
 sp_sdebug: Guest and public: None listed
 xp_availablemedia Guest and public: None listed
 xp_deletemail Guest and public: None listed
 xp_dirtree Guest: None Public: Checked
 xp_dropwebtask Guest and public: None listed
 xp_dsninfo Guest and public: None listed
 xp_enumdsn Guest and public: None listed
 xp_enumerrorlogs Guest and public: None listed
 xp_enumgroups Guest and public: None listed

xp_eventlog Guest and public: None listed
xp_fixeddrives Guest: None Public: Checked
xp_getfiledetails Guest: None Public: Checked
xp_getnetname Guest: None Public: Checked
xp_grantlogin Guest: None Public: Checked
xp_logevent Guest and public: None listed
xp_loginconfig Guest and public: None listed
xp_logininfo Guest and public: None listed
xp_makewebtask Guest and public: None listed
xp_msver Guest: None Public: Checked
Sp_OACreate Guest and public: None listed
sp_OAGetErrorInfo Guest and public: None listed
sp_OAGetProperty Guest and public: None listed
sp_OAMethod Guest and public: None listed
sp_OADestroy Guest and public: None listed
sp_OASetProperty Guest and public: None listed
SP_OAStop, Guest and public: None listed
Xp_regaddmultistring Guest and public: None listed
xp_readerrorlog Guest and public: None listed
xp_readmail Guest and public: None listed
xp_revokelogin Guest: None Public: Checked
xp_runwebtask Guest and public: None listed
xp_sendmail Guest and public: None listed
xp_servicecontrol Guest and public: None listed
xp_sprintf Guest: None Public: Checked
xp_sscanf Guest: None Public: Checked
xp_startmail Guest and public: None listed
xp_stopmail Guest and public: None listed
xp_subdirs Guest and public: None listed
xp_unc_to_drive Guest: None Public: Checked
Xp_regdeletekey Guest and public: None listed
Xp_regdeletevalue Guest and public: None listed
Xp_regenumvalues Guest and public: None listed
Xp_regread Guest: None Public: Checked
Xp_regremovemultistring Guest and public: None listed
Xp_regwrite Guest and public: None listed

The following is a screenshot of the findings for the sp_runwebtask stored procedure. For brevity purposes, the remaining screenshots have been omitted from this document.



In order to ensure that xp_cmdshell is still installed on the server, the query analyzer was opened and a test of the stored procedure was performed.

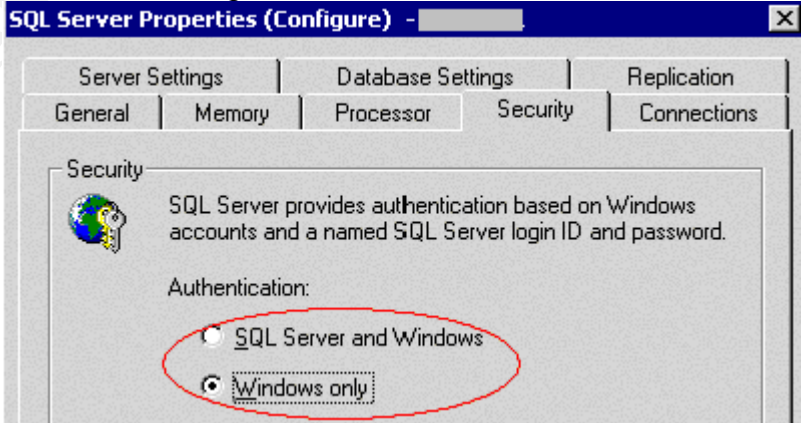


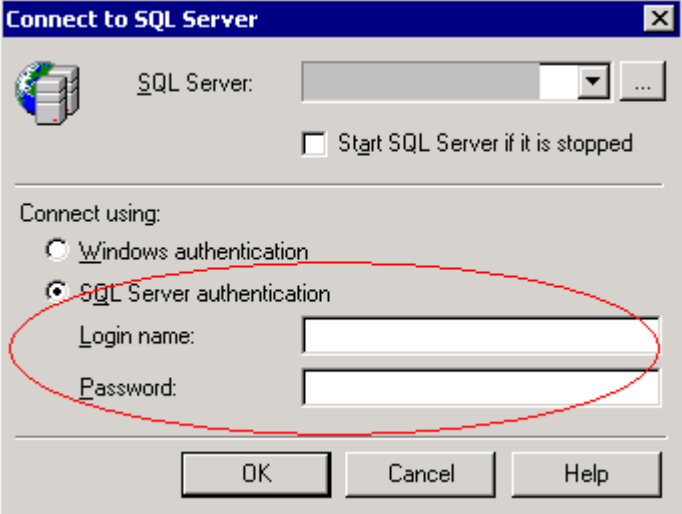
Auditor Notes / Test Results

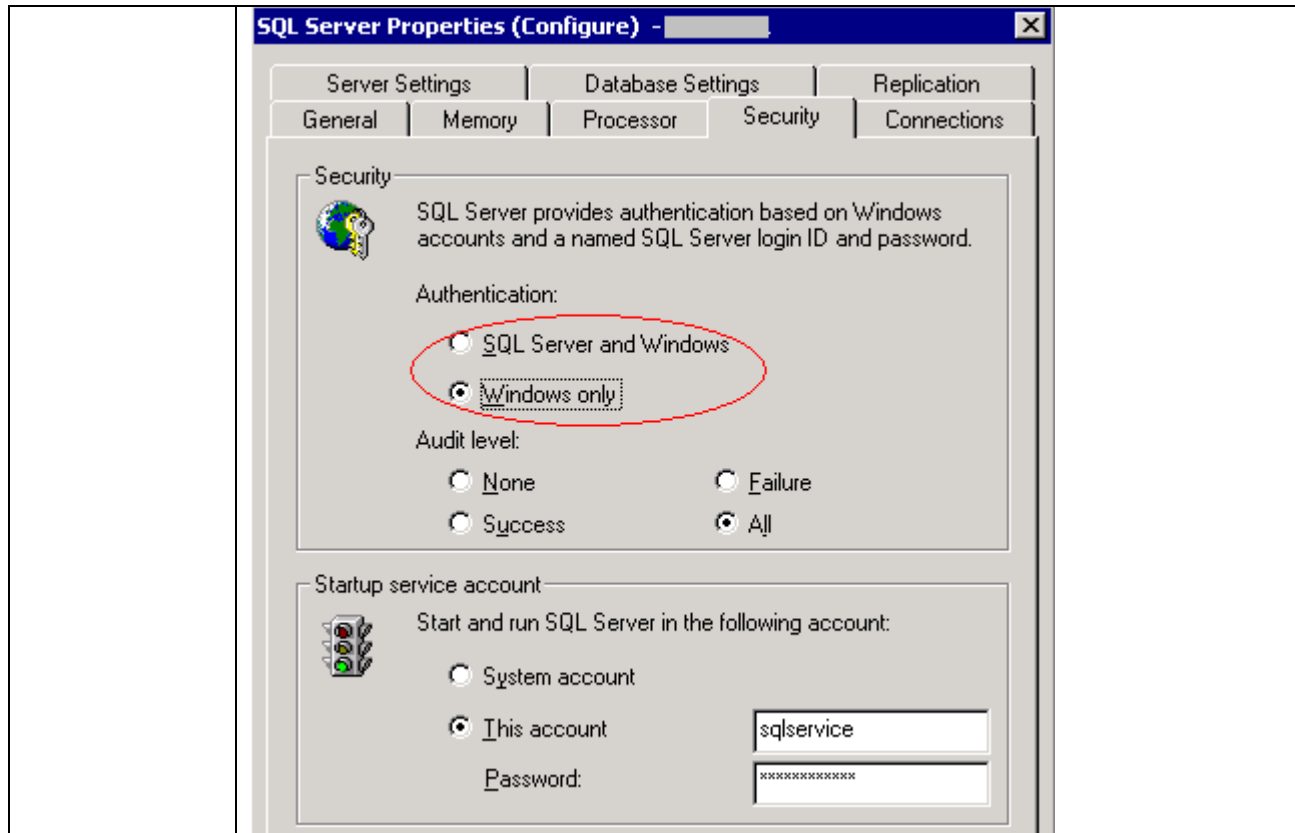
Fail. Any changes made will be required to be performed on a test server to ensure functionality after changes have been implemented. An analysis should be performed for system stability in the event a procedure is dropped and the DLL removed; alternatively, tests should also be performed if permissions are removed from the public and guest

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| | roles. |
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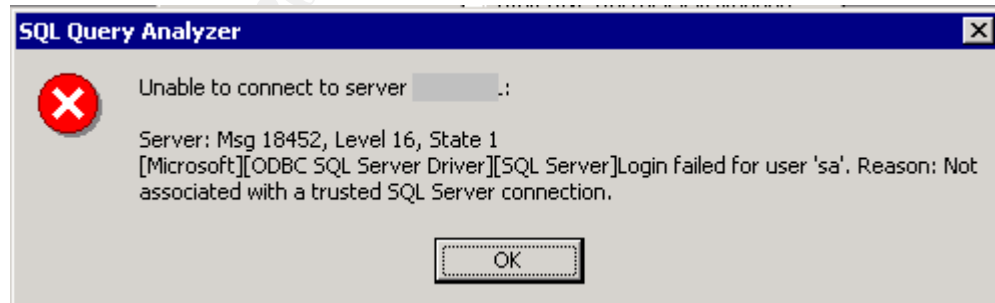
Audit 3 – Authentication Model

| | |
|--|--|
| Reference | Microsoft SQL 2000 Security White paper (page 15) http://www.microsoft.com/sql/techinfo/administration/2000/2000SecurityWP.doc |
| Control Objective | A single account database should be implemented for both operating system and SQL server. |
| Risk | Standard SQL authentication introduces a multitude of weaknesses (blank SA passwords, passwords left in install log files, password crackers, cleartext transmission, lack of built-in password restrictions and lockouts). This opens many opportunities for a savvy attacker to find a way into the server. |
| Likelihood | High. Many systems have the SQL authentication model in place for functionality or due to the lack of awareness. |
| Consequence | Potential loss of confidentiality if an attacker gains access to the server via one of the many vulnerabilities. |
| System Compliance/ Expected Test Results | Objective. Test must prove Windows authentication is in place. |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | <p>Check to ensure that only Windows authentication is used.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Access the enterprise manager (Start Programs MicrosoftSQLServer EnterpriseManager) 2) Right click server name, select properties 3) Open security tab. This will display the authentication mode in use (The following screenshot shows what screen should be seen). Document the setting and capture a screenshot of the server settings.  |

| | |
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| | <p>Stimulus/Response test</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">4) Open Query Analyzer (Start Programs MicrosoftSQLServer QueryAnalyzer).5) Enter SA account as username. Leave password as blank (the error returned will prove if SQL authentication is disabled (non trusted account) or a bad password was entered (incorrect password)).  <ol style="list-style-type: none">6) Document the results. Capture a screenshot and attach to the report. |
| Actual Results | Only Windows Authentication has been implemented on the server. The following screenshots confirm settings. |



To further test the authentication model, a logon to a query analyzer resulted in the following error message:



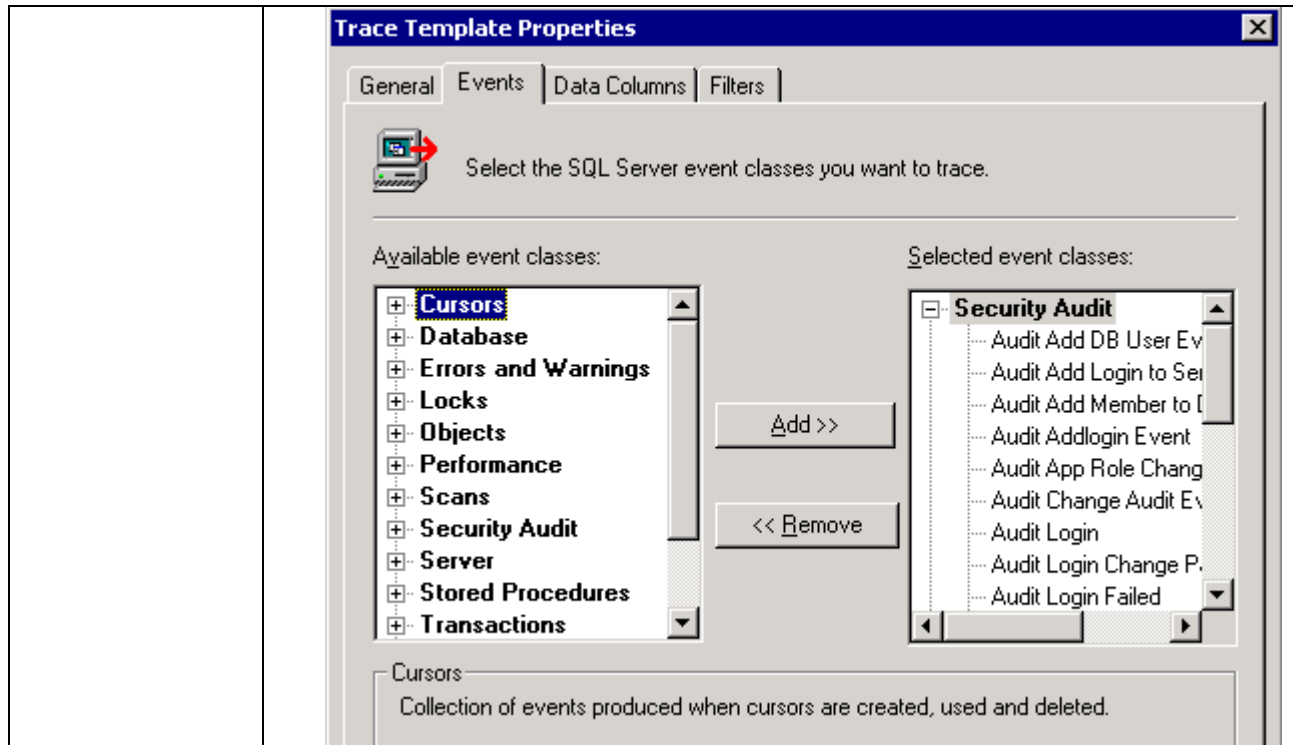
The above shows that SQL logins are not allowed on the server. When SQL logins are allowed but an incorrect password is given, an error stating such is shown to the user.

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| Auditor Notes / Test Results | Pass. The server has Windows Authentication established and stimulus/response tests have proven that an attempt to logon with a SQL account fails with an error stating that Windows Authentication is in place. |
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Audit 4 – Audit Activity on server

| | |
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| Reference | SQL Server books online (“auditing SQL Server activity” as a search parameter). |
| Control Objective | Audit logs of all actions taken on SQL server must be kept. |
| Risk | A lack of auditing will result in an inability to know when a breach has occurred. This will allow an attacker to access the system and perform malicious activities with little chance of being detected. |
| Likelihood | High. By default, auditing is not enabled in SQL server. |
| Consequence | If trace is not enabled, a log of activity will not be maintained. |
| System Compliance/ Expected Test Results | Objective. Trace template created and logs exist to document activity on the server |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | <p>Request location of the trace template and template files or table from the administrator. Access SQL profiler. Open the trace template and logs to ensure tracing is enabled and is monitoring activity on the server.</p> <p>To access the required settings and files, Access trace template</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Open SQL profiler (Start Programs MicrosoftSQLServer Profiler).2) Select File Open TraceTemplate. Select template given by administrator. Once open, select “Events” tab. |

© SANS Institute

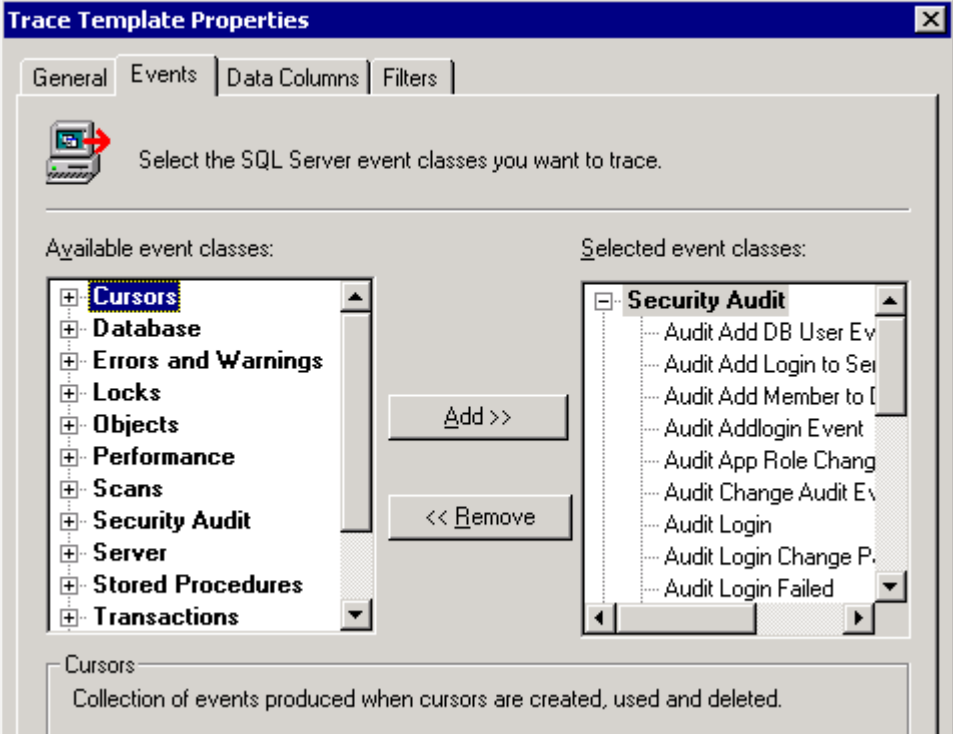


Items that must be enabled are as follows. Document any deviations

Add DB User Event
 Add Login to Server
 Add Login to Server Role
 Add Member to DB Role
 Add Login
 App Role Change Password
 Change Audit
 Login
 Login Change Password
 Login Failed
 Login GDR
 Logout
 Object Derived Permission
 Object GDR
 Object Permission
 Statement GDR
 Statement Permission

Verify Trace Results

- 3) Select File|Open|TraceFile or TraceTable (depending on storage of traces given by administrator). Point to the location of trace files or trace template.
- 4) Open trace and check dates for latest activity (starttime

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| | column). Note if the trace activity is recent. Document the findings. |
| Actual Results | <p>Proper trace templates were found to exist on the server in a trace template file named acmetemplate.trc. However, no trace files or trace tables were found to exist on the server. The following is a screenshot of the actual trace template that was discovered during the audit.</p>  |
| Auditor Notes / Test Results | Fail. Automated auditing of the server has not been established. |

Audit 5 – Logon Auditing

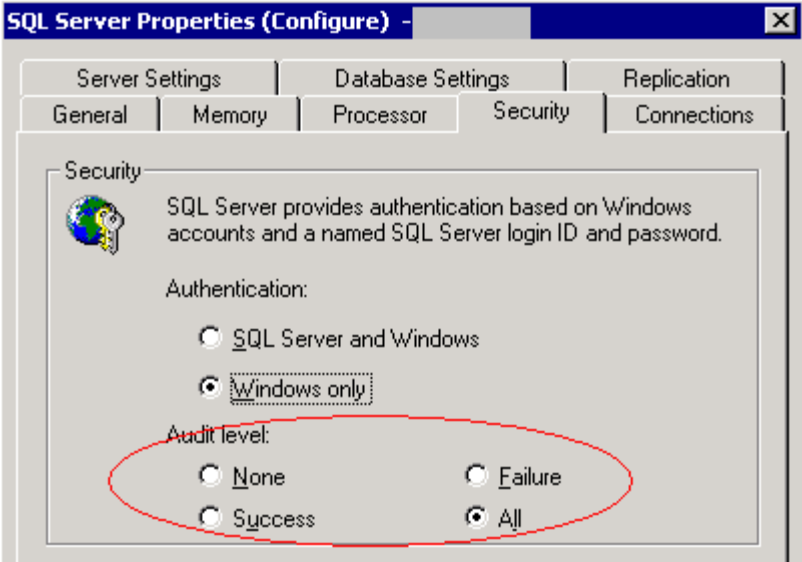
| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Reference | Microsoft SQL 2000 Security White paper (page 54) http://www.microsoft.com/sql/techinfo/administration/2000/2000SecurityWP.doc |
| Control Objective | All system access must be logged. |
| Risk | A lack of tracing which accounts are failing logon attempts. If not established, an attacker can attempt a brute force attack on the server and no evidence of the attack will be available. |
| Likelihood | High. Auditing of server logon attempts is not enabled by default. |
| Consequence | If not configured, no failed logon detection is possible. |
| System | Objective. Logging of failed SQL logins is turned on (the default setting |

Compliance/ Expected Test Results is off.)

Test performed to ensure compliance

Ensure logon audit level for SQL server is set to all.

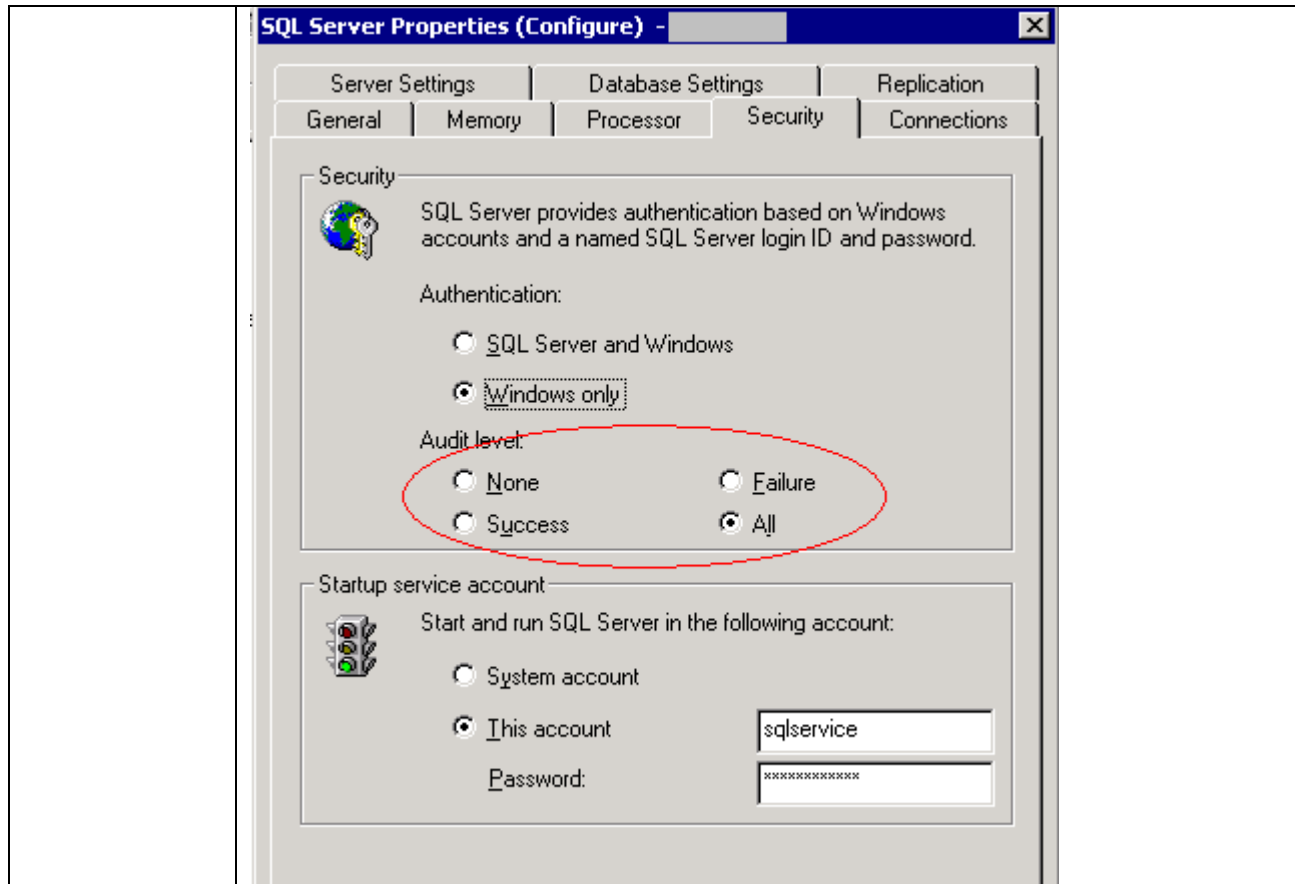
- 1) Access the enterprise manager (Start|Programs|MicrosoftSQLServer|EnterpriseManager)
- 2) Right click the server name, select properties
- 3) Open the security tab. This will display the audit level in place (The following screenshot shows what options should be selected). Document the settings and capture a screenshot of the server settings.



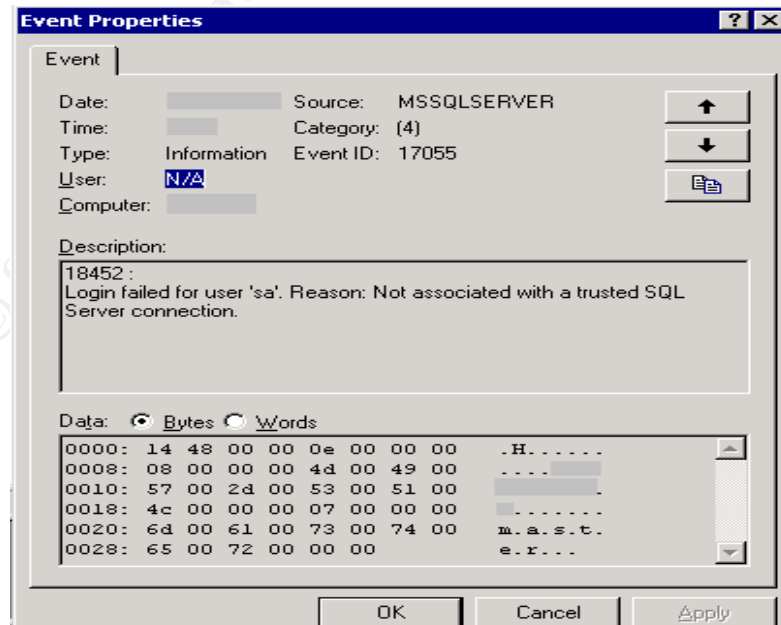
Stimulus/Response Test:

- 4) Access Query Analyzer (Start|Programs|MicrosoftSQLServer|QueryAnalyzer)
- 5) At the logon prompt, select SQL authentication. Attempt to logon to server with user account SA and a blank password.
- 6) At the logon prompt, select Windows authentication. Attempt to logon to server.
- 7) Access the application log in Event Viewer (Start|Programs|AdministrativeTools|EventViewer). Open log entries that show attempted logons (event 17055 shows all successful and failed logon attempts). Document findings and attach screenshots to report.

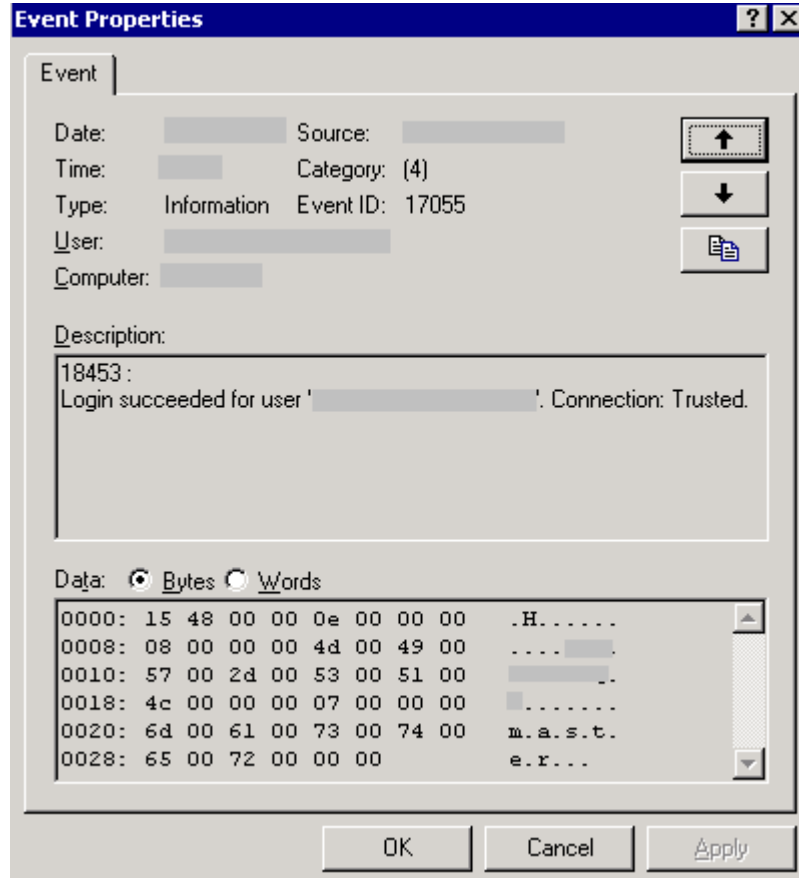
Actual Results Auditing has been established on the server to audit all logon attempts (both success and failure). The following screen shows logon auditing is enabled.



An invalid attempt to logon to query analyzer with a SQL account was performed and the following failure was noted in the server's application event log:



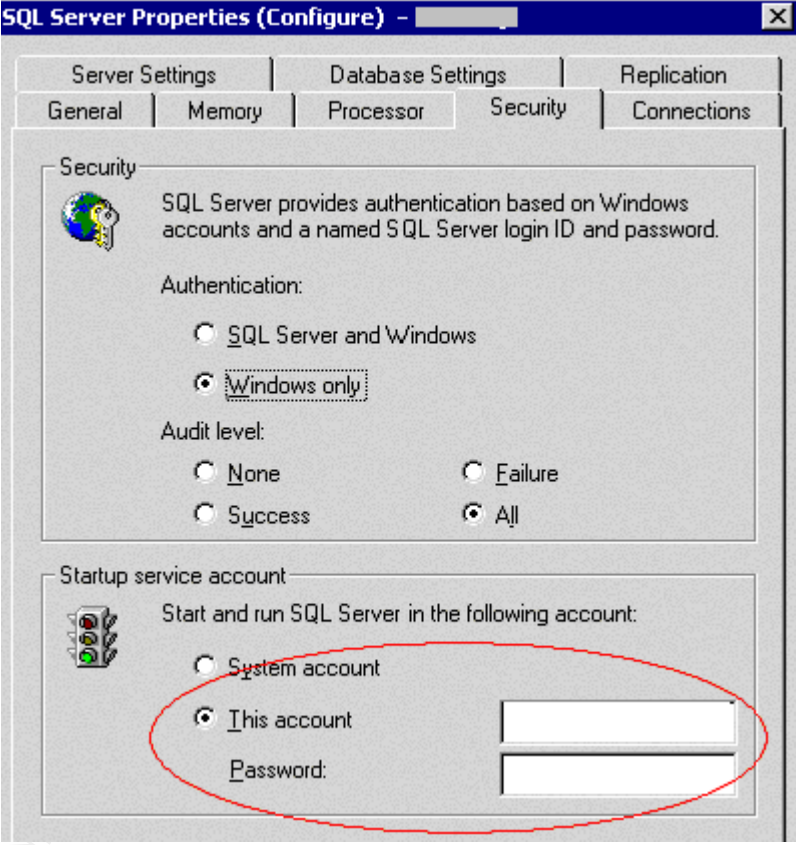
A valid access was noted as follows in the event log:



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| Auditor Notes / Test Results | Pass. Auditing is established properly. |
|------------------------------|---|

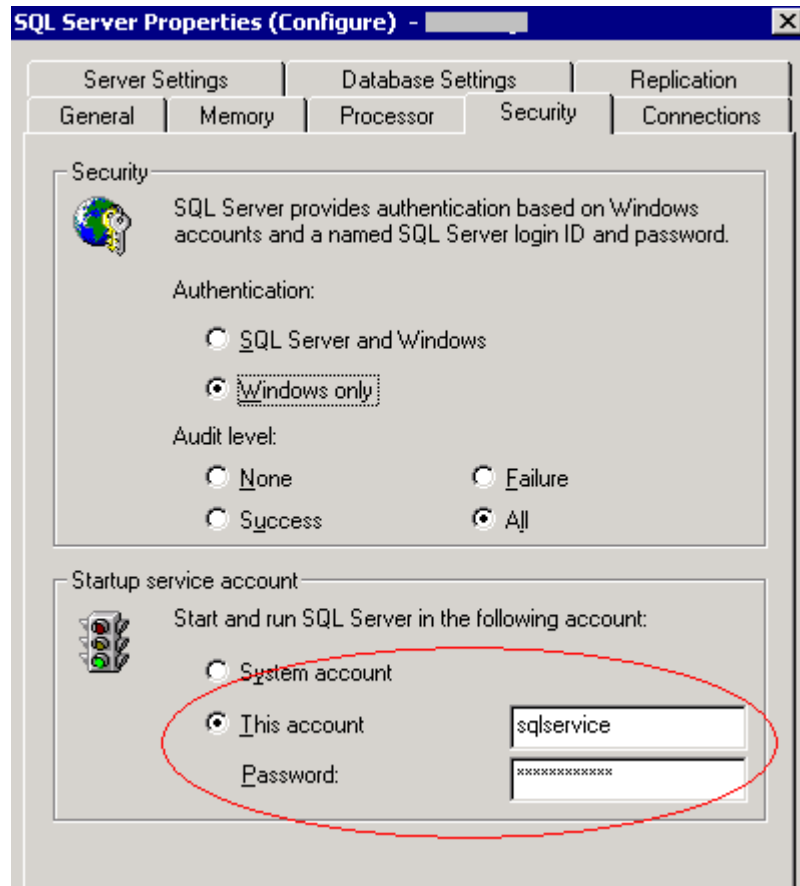
Audit 6 – SQL Service start-up accounts

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Reference | <p>Microsoft SQL 2000 Security White paper (page 51) http://www.microsoft.com/sql/techinfo/administration/2000/2000SecurityWP.doc</p> <p>SQL Server Security Checklist (item 4): http://www.sqlsecurity.com/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=3&tabid=4</p> |
| Control Objective | The SQL service must be assigned a user level start-up account |
| Risk | Excessive rights assigned to SQL service. |
| Likelihood | Medium. Depends on the server configuration |
| Consequence | These rights can be used by an attacker to increase their privilege on the server and network |
| System | Objective. MSSQLSERVER service must start as a user level account. |

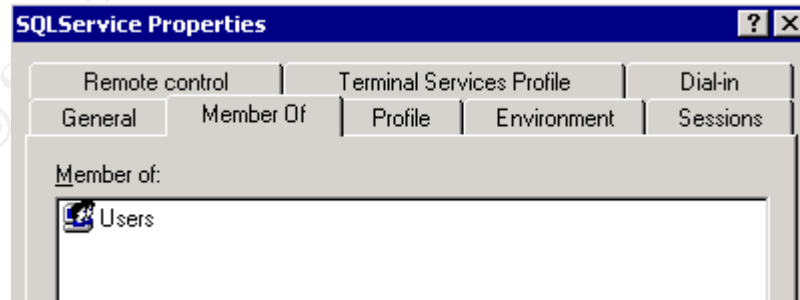
| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Compliance/ Expected test results | |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | <p>Check service startup account in enterprise manager.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Access the enterprise manager (Start Programs MicrosoftSQLServer EnterpriseManager) 2) Right click the server name, select properties. 3) Open the security tab. This will display the startup account in place (The following screenshot shows what options should be selected). Document the settings and capture a screenshot of the server settings.  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) Access Windows users and groups settings (Start Programs AdministrativeTools ComputerManagement LocalUsersAndGroups). Double-click the users tab. Double click the service account name. Check the group membership. Document and attach a screenshot to the report. 5) Access Services window (Start Settings ControlPanel AdministrativeTools Services). Access MSSQLServer service by double-clicking the service. Access the logon tab. Confirm which account is being used to start the service. Document the account and attach a screenshot to the report. |

Actual Results

The server is established as having a standard user account being used to run under.



The following screenshot proves the account is a member of the local users account.



Verification was performed by accessing the properties for the SQL services in the system's control panel. The following was discovered

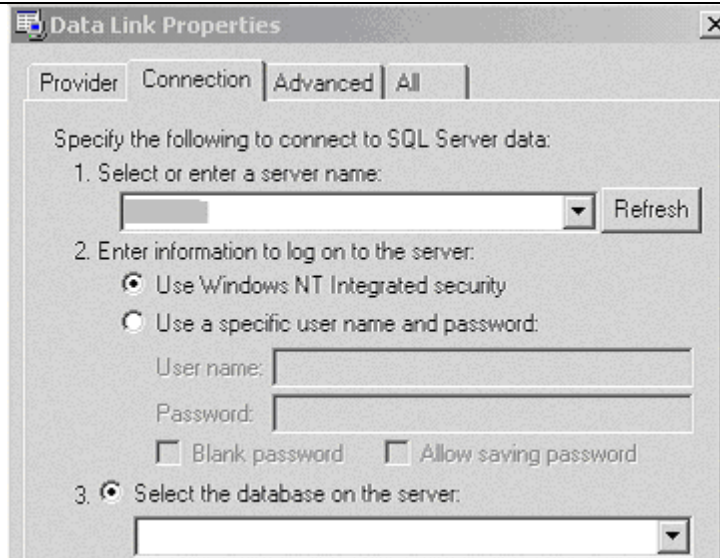
As the screenshot shows, the SQL service is starting under the sqlservice user account.

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| Auditor Notes / Test Results | Pass. The server is configured to start with the context of a standard user. |
|------------------------------|--|

Audit 7 – Guest user access

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| Reference | <p>SQL Server Security Checklist (item 8): http://www.sqlsecurity.com/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=3&tabid=4</p> <p>Microsoft SQL 2000 Security White paper (page 58) http://www.microsoft.com/sql/techinfo/administration/2000/2000SecurityWP.doc</p> |
| Control Objective | Only authenticated accounts may access the SQL server. |
| Risk | Non-authenticated users have access to a database through the guest |

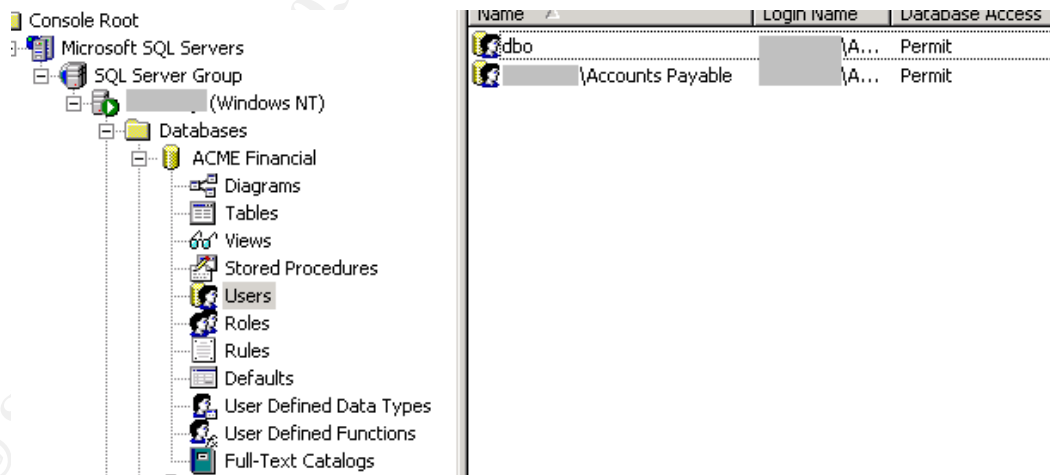
| | |
|---|---|
| | account. Potential disclosure of data is possible through guest access. |
| Likelihood | Medium. Depends on the server configuration. |
| Consequence | Disclosure of information is possible if the guest account has access. |
| System Compliance/ Expected test results | Objective. The guest account is removed from all sensitive databases. The guest account at the operating system level must be disabled. |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | <p>Check permissions for the guest account on sensitive databases.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Access enterprise manager (Start Programs MicrosoftSQLServer EnterpriseManager) 2) Expand the server group, open the target server then access the databases tab. Expand the database in question. Select the users tab. All users allowed access are shown. 3) Ensure the guest account is not listed and that only required groups/users are listed as having access to the database. Document the findings and attach a screenshot to the report. <p>Check guest account at O/S level</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) Access Windows users and groups settings (Start Programs AdministrativeTools ComputerManagement LocalUsersAndGroups). 5) Double-click users tab. Double click guest account. Ensure "account is disabled" box is checked. Document findings and attach a screenshot. <p>Stimulus/Response test: Attempt to access the server with an account not listed as having access to ensure that access is denied.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6) Logon to the auditor workstation as a user that does not exist on the target server (this will force a guest connection when data access is performed). 7) Open Microsoft Access from the auditor workstation. Close any wizard that appears when opening the application. 8) Select the "new data access page". Choose design view. The "Data link properties" screen will open. 9) Enter the server name and select Windows Integrated Security. The following screenshot shows the screen that should be displayed. |



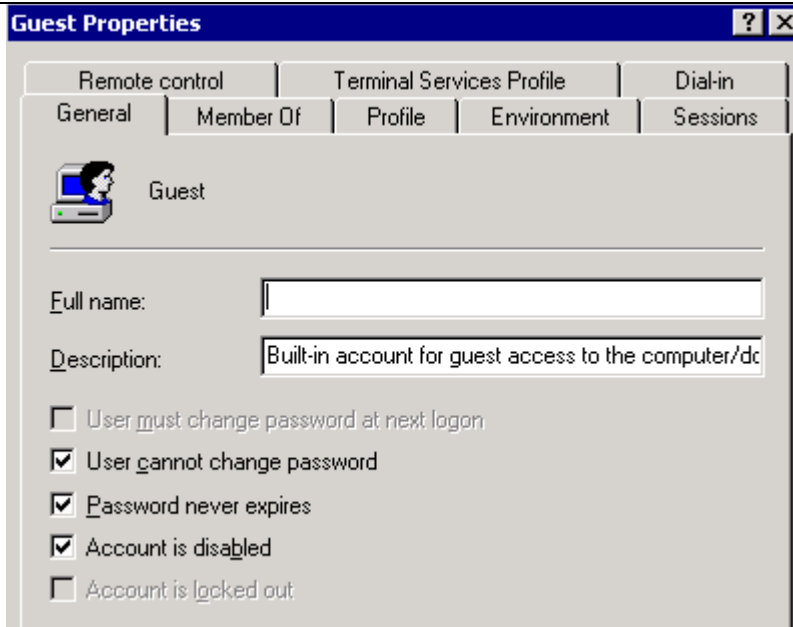
10) Select the “select database on the server” pulldown box. Access should be denied. Document the findings and attach a screenshot of any errors.

Actual Results

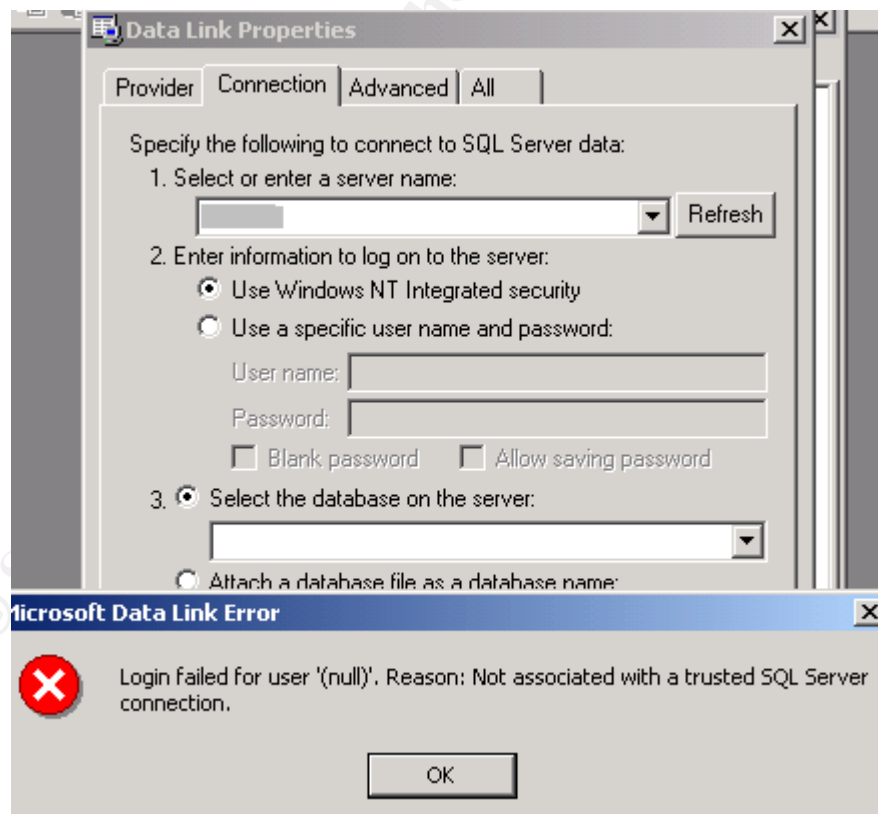
The following screen shows that guest access is restricted from the Company database.



The Guest account has been disabled at the O/S level.



Stimulus/Response test: The following shows the results of an access test using an account called "sqltest"



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| Auditor Notes / Test Results | Pass. Guest account is removed from corporate databases and the guest account has been disabled at the operating system level. |
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Audit 8 – Alerting

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| Reference | SQL Server Security Checklist (item 17): http://www.sqlsecurity.com/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabindex=3&tabid=4 |
| Control Objective | An alerting mechanism must be established and notification established. |
| Risk | A lack of alerting would prohibit response to malicious activity. This would allow an attacker ample opportunity to attack the server if no detection and response was possible. |
| Likelihood | High. Alerting is not configured by default. |
| Consequence | No response would be possible if alerting is not enabled. |
| System Compliance/ Expected Test Results | Objective. Alerts are configured and notification will be sent. |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | Access the server in SQL Enterprise Manager. Select Management SQL Server Agent Alerts. Check for the existence of an alert for severity 14 and that an operator is defined to receive a page or e-mail. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Access Enterprise Manager (Start Programs MicrosoftSQLServer EnterpriseManager) 2) Expand the server group, open the server and access the management tab. Select “SQL Server agent”, then alerts. 3) Check for a listing with severity 14. Attach screenshot of alerts screen. 4) Double click the severity 14 item. Click the “Response” tab. Note all of the recipients of alerts. Attach a screenshot of the recipients and the method of alerting. |
| Actual Results | Alerting has been established for the server; however, there is no notification established, nor are there any operators established. |

The top screenshot shows the SQL Server Enterprise Manager interface. The left pane displays the server hierarchy, with 'SQL Server Agent' and its sub-items 'Alerts', 'Operators', and 'Jobs' circled in red. The right pane shows a list of 10 alerts:

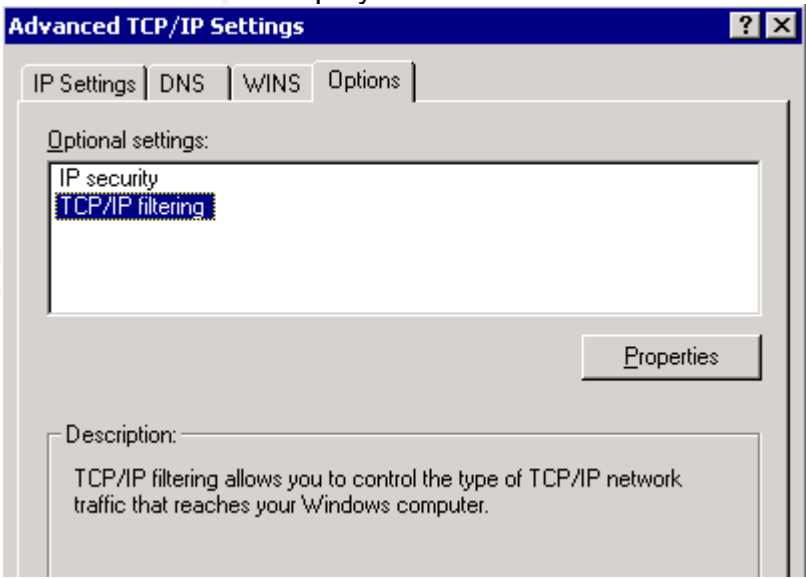
| Name | Enabled | Error | Severity | Last Occurrence |
|----------------------|---------|-------|----------|-----------------|
| Demo: Full msdb log | Yes | 9002 | 0 | (Never) |
| Demo: Full tempdb | Yes | 9002 | 0 | (Never) |
| Demo: Sev. 19 Errors | Yes | 0 | 19 | (Never) |
| Demo: Sev. 20 Errors | Yes | 0 | 20 | (Never) |
| Demo: Sev. 21 Errors | Yes | 0 | 21 | (Never) |
| Demo: Sev. 22 Errors | Yes | 0 | 22 | (Never) |
| Demo: Sev. 23 Errors | Yes | 0 | 23 | (Never) |
| Demo: Sev. 24 Errors | Yes | 0 | 24 | (Never) |
| Demo: Sev. 25 Errors | Yes | 0 | 25 | (Never) |
| Permission alert | Yes | 0 | 14 | (Never) |

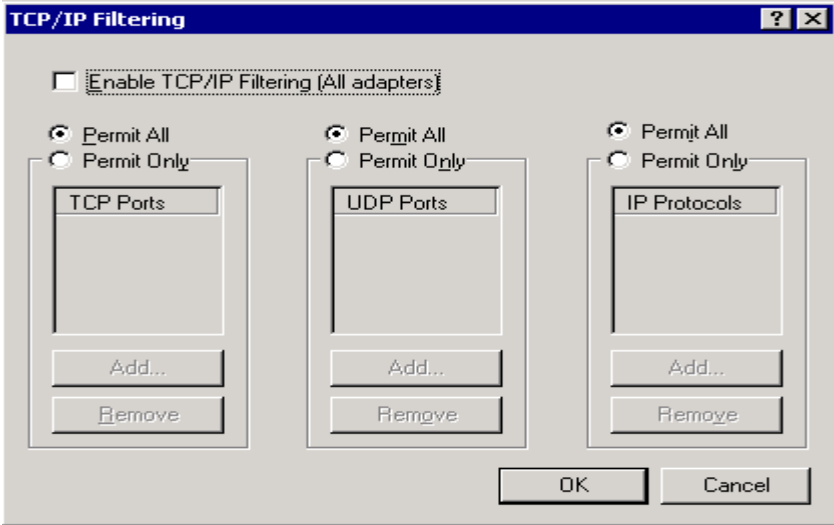
The bottom screenshot shows the 'Permission alert Properties' dialog box, 'Response' tab. The 'Execute job' checkbox is unchecked. The 'Operators to notify' list is empty. The 'Include alert error text in:' section has 'E-mail' and 'Net send' checked, while 'Pager' is unchecked. The 'Additional notification message to send:' text box is empty.

Auditor Notes / Test Results

Fail. As a result of the issues identified in the test results, there would be no alerts sent in case of a permission denial.

Audit 9 – TCP/IP Port filtering

| | |
|---|--|
| Reference | Medina, Luis, Empirical Hacker – Protect your database series - part one, checklist item 7. http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/tip/1,289483,sid7_gci845040,00.html |
| Control Objective | Network controls should be in place to protect the server data. |
| Risk | Malware can use high-level ports to communicate with an attacker and allow access to server. |
| Likelihood | Medium. Previous examples of malware that allowed for remote control of the server included backorifice and netbus. |
| Consequence | If not restricted, any port can be used on the server. Malware would be able to report back to an attacker and open a connection through the corporate firewall. |
| System Compliance / Expected test results | Objective. All ports other than the required baseline ports are filtered at the O/S level. |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | <p>Check TCP/IP filtering.</p> <p>1) On the server desktop, right-click the “My Network Places” icon, select properties. Right-Click “Local Area Connection”, select properties. Double click Internet Protocol (TCP/IP). Select the advanced tab, then options. The following screen capture shows what should be displayed.</p>  <p>2) Select TCP/IP filtering, select properties. All filtered ports will be displayed at this point. Document and attach a screenshot to the</p> |

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| | <p>report.</p> <p>Stimulus/Response Tests:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) From the auditor workstation on the LAN, run NMAP (windows executables available at http://sourceforge.net/projects/nmapwin.) Enter the IP address of the SQL server. Check the port range box and enter 1-65535. This will test which ports are accessible on the server. Ensure that all TCP and UDP ports are scanned (by repeating the test with UDP scan selected). Attach both screenshots (TCP and UDP scans) of discovered ports to the report. 4) Execute fport (executables available at http://www.foundstone.com/knowledge/free_tools.html) on the server. Save the report and attach a screenshot to the report. |
| <p>Actual test results</p> | <p>As shown in the following screenshots, port filtering is not enabled on the server.</p>  <p>FPORT scan results. Fport shows that terminal services have been enabled on the server. It has been determined that management of the server is performed remotely through terminal services.</p> |

```

FPort v1.33 - TCP/IP Process to Port Mapper
Copyright 2000 by Foundstone, Inc.
http://www.foundstone.com

Pid  Process          Port  Proto Path
500  suchost             135   TCP   C:\WINNT\system32\suchost.exe
8    System              139   TCP
8    System              445   TCP
560  msdtc               1025  TCP   C:\WINNT\System32\msdtc.exe
812  MSTask              1026  TCP   C:\WINNT\system32\MSTask.exe
8    System              1031  TCP
768  sqlservr            1433  TCP   C:\PROGRA~1\MICROS~3\MSSQL\bin\sql
e
560  msdtc               3372  TCP   C:\WINNT\System32\msdtc.exe
384  termsrv             3389  TCP   C:\WINNT\System32\termsrv.exe

500  suchost             135   UDP   C:\WINNT\system32\suchost.exe
8    System              137   UDP
8    System              138   UDP
8    System              445   UDP
264  lsass               500   UDP   C:\WINNT\system32\lsass.exe
252  services            1028  UDP   C:\WINNT\system32\services.exe
768  sqlservr            1434  UDP   C:\PROGRA~1\MICROS~3\MSSQL\bin\sql
e

```

NMAP TCP Results

The screenshot shows the NMapWin v1.3.1 application window. The 'Host' field is empty. The 'Scan' tab is selected, showing various scan modes and options. The 'Output' window displays the results of a scan on a single IP address.

Scan Options:

- Mode: SYN Stealth, Connect, Null Scan, Window Scan, Xmas Tree, RCP Scan, FIN Stealth, IP Scan, List Scan, Ping Sweep, Idle Scan, UDP Scan, ACK Scan
- Scan Options: Port Range (1-65535), Use Decoy, Bounce Scan, Device, Source Address, Source Port, Idle Scan Host

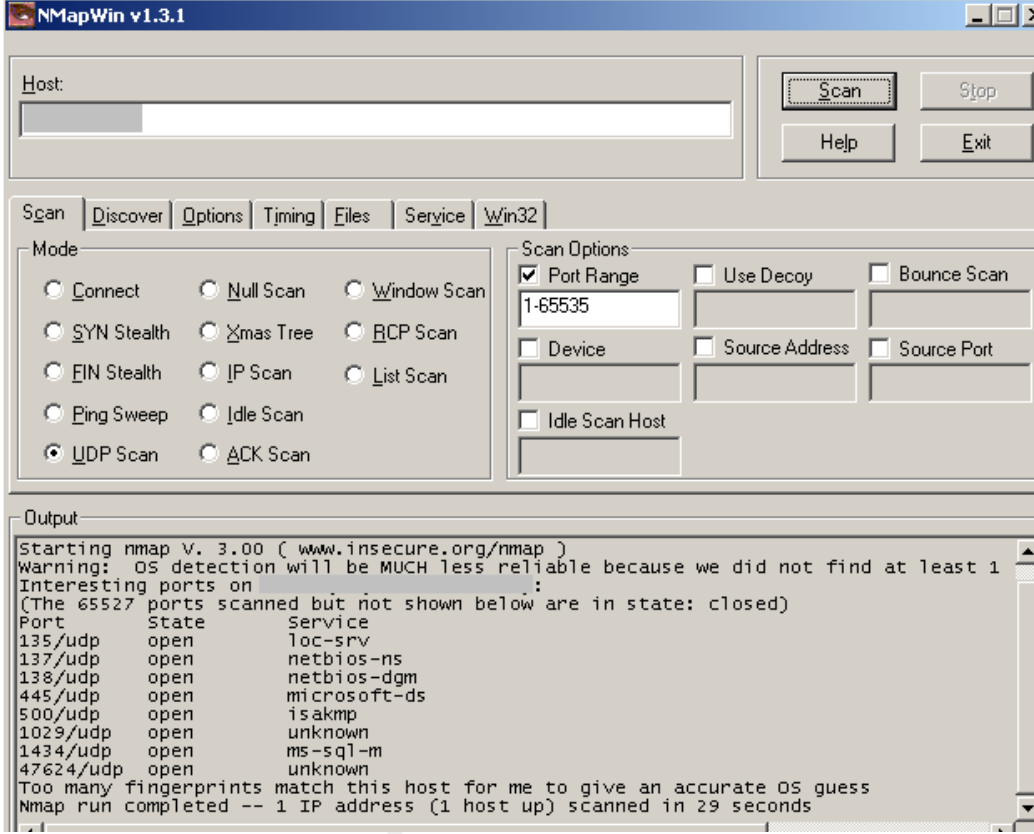
Output:

```

Starting nmap v. 3.00 ( www.insecure.org/nmap )
Interesting ports on :
(The 65526 ports scanned but not shown below are in state: closed)
Port      State  Service
135/tcp   open   loc-srv
139/tcp   open   netbios-ssn
445/tcp   open   microsoft-ds
1025/tcp  open   NFS-or-IIIS
1026/tcp  open   LSA-or-nterm
1433/tcp  open   ms-sql-s
1723/tcp  filtered pptp
3372/tcp  open   msdtc
3389/tcp  open   ms-term-serv
Remote operating system guess: Windows Millennium Edition (Me), Win 2000, or WinXP
Nmap run completed -- 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 38 seconds

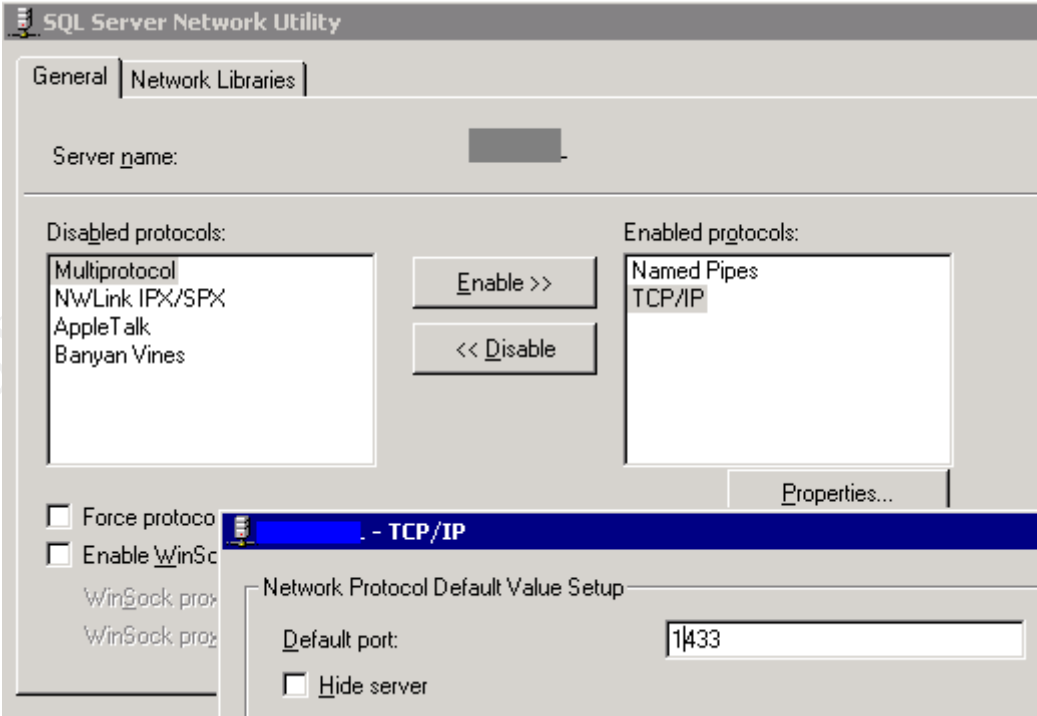
```

NMAP UDP Results

| | |
|---------------|--|
| |  |
| Auditor Notes | <p>Fail. No ports are restricted on the server. Additionally, terminal services are installed and listening on the server. Server should be investigated to determine what application is listening on UDP port 47624. Research has shown this port to be associated with a game server. Fport does not list any service listening on this port.</p> |

Audit 10 – SQL Port

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Reference | <p>Medina, Luis, Empirical Hacker – Protect your database series - part one, checklist item 2. http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/tip/1,289483,sid7_gci845040,00.html</p> <p>Partlow, Joe, Microsoft SQL Server 2000 Security Overview (page 6) http://www.giac.org/practical/Joe_Partlow_GSEC.doc</p> |
| Control Objective | <p>Network controls should be in place to protect the server data.</p> |
| Risk | <p>Attackers will portscan entire subnets on port 1433 (automated attacks), or will use Sqlping2 (port 1434) to manually find SQL servers on the</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | Internet. |
| Likelihood | Depends on the firewall configuration. |
| Consequence | A potential attacker would know of the existence of the SQL server. An attacker can then use automated tools to attack server after initial the reconnaissance. |
| System Compliance/ Expected test results | Objective. The port value should be changed from the default and the server port should be hidden. This will change both the listening port and hide the actual SQL port in use from sqlping2. |
| Test performed to ensure compliance | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Access Enterprise Manager (Start Programs MicrosoftSQLServer EnterpriseManager) 2) Expand the server group, right click the servername and select properties. 3) Select the Network Configuration tab. Select the TCP/IP protocol option and select properties. 4) Document the port number and determine if the server is listed as hidden (“hide server” checkbox selected). <p>Stimulus/Response tests:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5) Run fport on the server to confirm which port the SQL Server is listening to. Document findings and attach screenshot. 6) Obtain sqlping2 from www.sqlsecurity.com/scripts.asp. 7) Run SQLping2 against the server IP address. 8) Document the findings and attach a screenshot to the report. |
| Actual test results | <p>The SQL listening port is at its default value of TCP 1433 and the “hide server” checkbox is not selected.</p>  |

Fport screenshot shows that all ports are at their default values.

```

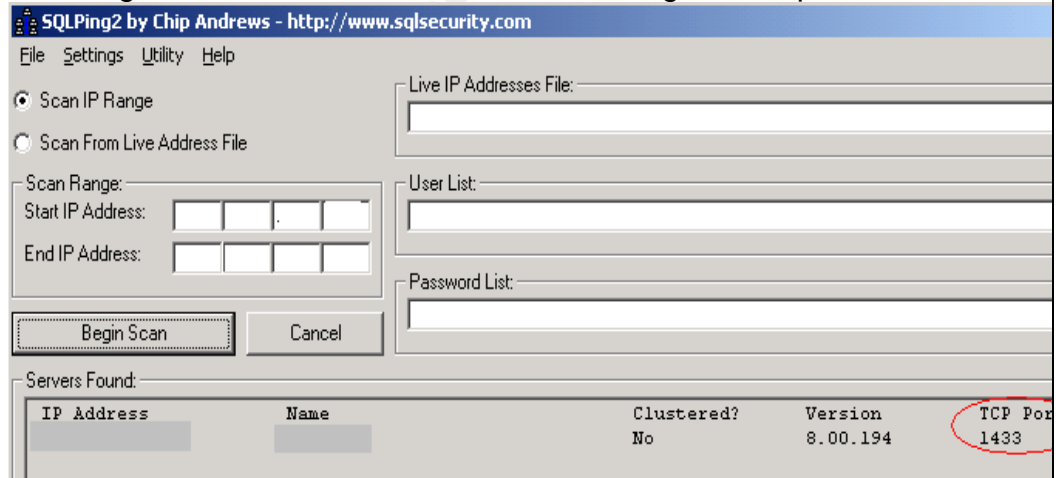
C:\WINNT\System32\cmd.exe
http://www.foundstone.com

Pid  Process      Port  Proto Path
500  suchost      -> 135  TCP  C:\WINNT\system32\suchost.exe
8    System      -> 139  TCP
8    System      -> 445  TCP
556  msdtc       -> 1025 TCP  C:\WINNT\System32\msdtc.exe
808  MSTask      -> 1026 TCP  C:\WINNT\system32\MSTask.exe
8    System      -> 1030 TCP
1220 sqlservr    -> 1433 TCP  C:\PROGRA~1\MICROS~3\MSSQL\bin\sqlservr.e
e
556  msdtc       -> 3372 TCP  C:\WINNT\System32\msdtc.exe
384  termsrv     -> 3389 TCP  C:\WINNT\System32\termsrv.exe

500  suchost      -> 135  UDP  C:\WINNT\system32\suchost.exe
8    System      -> 137  UDP
8    System      -> 138  UDP
8    System      -> 445  UDP
264  lsass       -> 500  UDP  C:\WINNT\system32\lsass.exe
252  services    -> 1029 UDP  C:\WINNT\system32\services.exe
1220 sqlservr    -> 1434 UDP  C:\PROGRA~1\MICROS~3\MSSQL\bin\sqlservr.e
e

C:\tools>
  
```

SQLPing2 confirms that SQL Server is listening to TCP port 1433.



Auditor Notes Fail. The listening port is at default value of 1433 and server is not hidden.

Residual Risk

Most steps have been taken to prevent an attack from occurring. Thought and effort have been employed to restrict many of the inherent preventative weaknesses with the product. On the whole, the majority of control objectives have been met during this audit. Exceptions to this statement are as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Exposure | Published vulnerabilities in SQL Server 2000 |
| Control in place | Patch implementation |
| Residual Risk | Time between patch release and implementation. Patches only address published vulnerabilities, not "zero-day" or future vulnerabilities. |
| Recommendation | Automated system for patch implementation. Software Update Services (SUS) is supplied by Microsoft to automate patch deployment. Defense in depth approach to securing the server mitigates the risk of zero-day exploits. |
| Estimated cost of recommendation | \$1500 in labour charges (assumption 5 days effort @ \$300/day), software free of charge. The implementation of SUS will reduce the administrative overhead associated with patch maintenance and should be justifiable as the reduction of effort required to manually maintain patches will outweigh the effort required to implement the service. |

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Exposure | Stored procedures can be used by an attacker to gain access to the underlying operating system |
| Control in place | Removal of stored procedures and/or permission hardening of stored procedures. |
| Residual Risk | Some stored procedures may be required for functionality. |
| Recommendation | Perform a full audit of the underlying operating system and implement suggested controls. |
| Estimated cost of recommendation | Acquire audit checklist for Windows 2000 and conduct audit. The costs associated with this endeavor are estimated to be 2 days of effort for a cost of \$600 (if performed internally). The audit and subsequent implementation efforts will further harden the operating system and implement defense in depth. This should be viewed as justifiable as the potential monetary damage is well in excess of the estimated costs. |

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Exposure | Physical theft of server components or hardware failure |
| Control in place | Server located in locked room |
| Residual Risk | Server remains as a single point of failure. Physical barriers may be circumvented. |
| Recommendation | Acquire hot-spare server to reduce the downtime associated with loss or failure of hardware components |
| Estimated cost of recommendation | Purchase of identical server platform. Time required to install software components and data migration procedures or |

| | |
|--|---|
| | implementation of a replication mechanism. Estimated cost of implementation is \$5000 for the server platform and another 2 weeks of labour, estimated at \$3000. Based on the assumed value of the data stored on the server, this implementation of a hot spare is justifiable. |
|--|---|

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Exposure | Notification to unauthorized access (response mechanism) |
| Control in place | Alerts created to notify administrator |
| Residual Risk | Single individual tasked with maintaining 24x7 support of server. |
| Recommendation | Add extra administrator to segregate duties and share workload. |
| Estimated cost of recommendation | Hiring of additional resource who will be able to share the workload. The estimated cost of this recommendation is \$50,000/year. Due to the workload of the present administrator and the lack of segregation of duties controls, this step is justifiable. |

Is the system auditable?

The Microsoft SQL Server 2000 system is auditable, but requires configuration to enable auditing. For example, by default, audit logs are not kept. Due to the lack of a log system, it was not possible to determine if the system has already had malicious activity performed on the data, or if individuals have been accessing sensitive data to which they should not have access. All of the other goals of the audit were successfully completed, as the required components were available to the auditor for analysis.

Many of the other controls in the system allow for complete auditing. The system does create event entries into the generic system event viewer. Additionally, the SQL Server does populate the performance monitor application with SQL-specific counters. These counters can be used to trigger alerts based on thresholds being met and can be used for both auditing and performance tuning purposes.

The use of third party tools can assist with auditing of the system. For instance, one application, NGSSquirrel, can be used to greatly enhance the auditing and testing of SQL server. Use of this application could not be included in this paper due to the fact that it is not freeware and must be licensed at a cost (price varies depending on license purchased). To learn more about NGSSquirrel and its increased auditing capabilities, go to <http://www.nextgenss.com/software/ngssquirrel.html> for more information regarding this product and to download a (crippled and time bombed) trial copy of the software.

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Assignment 4: Audit Report

Executive Summary

The purpose of the audit was to determine if the SQL server met a baseline of security with protection, detection and response mechanisms being implemented. The audit of the server examined the policies and procedures of the Company and compared them against industry best practices.

The scope of this project was to determine if confidentiality, integrity and availability of server data could be reasonably expected with a Time Based Security approach. This includes analysis of preventative measures, as well as detection and reaction capabilities to unauthorized access to the server.

The analysis of the SQL server has shown that while attention has been given to preventative security, some areas of the server have vulnerabilities that could be used by a threat agent to gain access to the server. For the most part (with exceptions noted following this summary), prevention mechanisms have been implemented on the server. Patches are applied on a frequent basis and the latest patches were being investigated. Accounts are restricted and authentication mechanisms are in place to limit exposure. Detection of any mischievous actions taken on the server could not be determined due to a lack of an audit trail. Response is also hindered through a lack of detection capability.

It is highly recommended that while maintaining a vigilant watch on the preventative side of security, detection and response mechanisms should be put in place for this server.

Audit Findings

The following risks were discovered during the audit of the SQL server.

Finding 1 – Missing patches on the server

Priority: Critical


Reference: Audit Item #1, page 38

Patches were found to be missing on the server. Patch maintenance is critical for this server as all known exploits are controlled through the implementation of patches. This lack of patching, although scheduled, is an indicator of the inability of one person to

manage all facets of the corporate IT structure. This root cause is believed to be the reason these patches have not been implemented.

SQL Server Scan Results

Vulnerabilities

| Score | Issue | Result |
|---|---------------------|--|
|  | SQL Server Hotfixes | 5 hotfixes are missing or could not be confirmed. What was scanned Result details How to correct this |

Risks

Attackers can create a script that exploits a published vulnerability. The script can then be executed in an automated fashion by entities known as “script kiddies”. These individuals need not know of the system or its’ inner workings to successfully attack a server. Once an attack is successful, all confidentiality of data would be lost.

Finding 2 – Lack of detection mechanism

Priority: Critical

Reference: Audits #4 and #5, pages 48-53

With the exception of logon auditing, there are no logs or trace tables that contain information regarding the transactions on the database. The items to trace have been established, however, no activity logs were found during the audit, which confirms that logging had not been established. The implementation of a process whereby logs are checked on a weekly basis will serve to address detection of malicious activity.

Risks

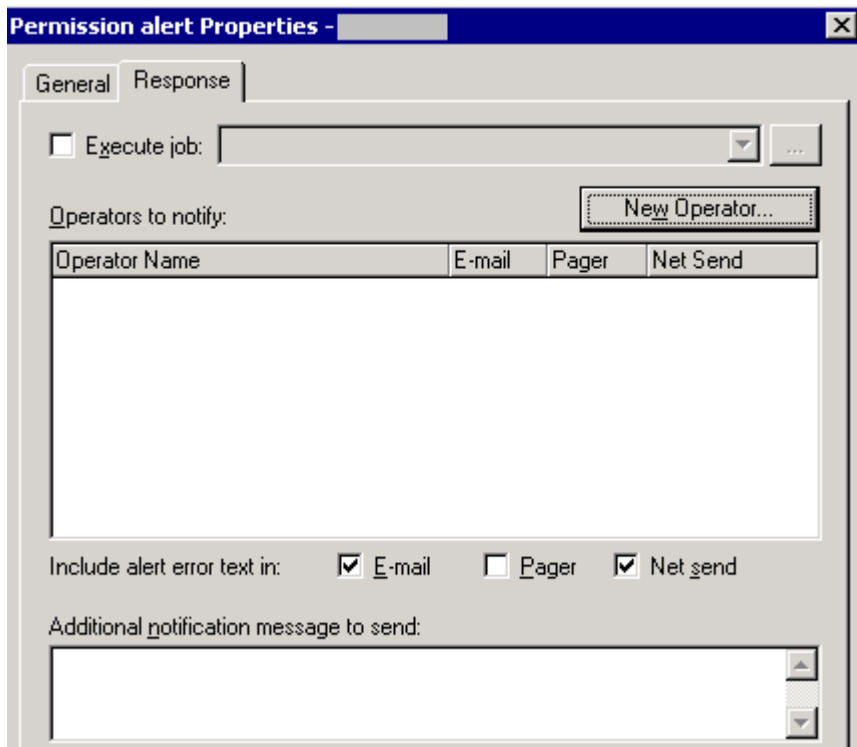
Without a detailed log of activities performed, it is impossible to determine what transactions have occurred on the database. While there is no detection, there is also no possibility of a timely reaction. This would allow an attacker to gain access to the server undetected and manipulate data as (s)he desires with little possibility of being caught.

Finding 3 – Lack of notification system

Priority: High

Reference: Audit #8, page 60

Notification functionality is included in the software to notify an administrator (operator) in the event of a security breach. At the present time, the items that should trigger a notification alert are established, however, there are no operators listed as recipients of an alert, nor does an infrastructure exist to facilitate such notifications. The lack of recipients is shown in the following screenshot. Establishment of a notification system and pager rotation will address this shortcoming.



Risks

The lack of a notification system would imply that there is no reaction capability in the event of an attack. An intruder would have ample time to perform their attack and cover their tracks. The likelihood of discovering an intruder accessing the server is highly improbable with no notification established.

Finding 4 – Stored Procedure vulnerabilities

Priority: Medium

Reference: Audit Item #2, page 39

Stored Procedures are included by the vendor to facilitate administration of the SQL server. Stored procedure functionality can range from simplification of routine administrative tasks up to the ability to run operating system command through the SQL server (`xp_cmdshell`). The stored procedures on the system are the default system procedures and the permissions assigned to the procedures are also at their default values. Once the initial changes are implemented, a process should be created to allow for a periodic review of stored procedures available in the system.

The following is a screenshot of the functionality that an attacker can gain through the use of the `xp_cmdshell`. In this example, the attacker can get a listing of all event logs on the server to perform initial reconnaissance prior to hiding any activities (s)he performs:

```

Query -
xp_cmdshell 'dir c:\*.evt /s'

```

| output | |
|--------|---------------------------------------|
| 4 | Directory of c:\WINNT\system32\config |
| 5 | NULL |
| 6 | 262,144 AppEvent.Evt |
| 7 | 65,536 SecEvent.Evt |
| 8 | 65,536 SysEvent.Evt |

Risks

An attacker can use these stored procedures to stage an attack of the server operating system for the purposes of gaining access to databases files, or to install malware on the server such as Trojan software.

It is recommended that all stored procedures mentioned in the audit checklist be analyzed for their usefulness to the company. These procedures can be removed, or have their permissions changed so only the required users have access. In some cases (xp_cmdshell, and various registry manipulation procedures) their removal is recommended.

The likelihood of an attacker using these procedures to mount an attack on the server is low. However, they should be removed to mitigate the potential risk of exploitation.

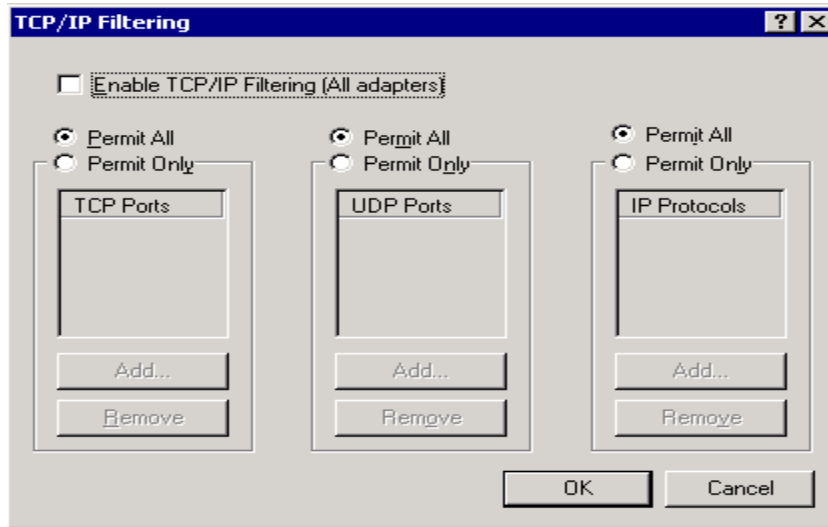
Finding 5 – TCP/IP Port filtering

Priority: Medium

Reference: Audit Item #9, page 62

In much the same manner as a firewall, server-based port filtering allows for a limitation to be placed on the ports that an application can use to listen to the network. By enabling port filtering, you limit the potential for a port to be activated by malware to listen for instructions on the network. No port filtering has been established on the

server. Port filtering can be used to limit applications from gaining access to the network.



Risks

Vulnerabilities associated with malware are remote administration (e.g. Backorifice and netbus) and other Trojan applications. By having all ports open, an attacker can implement an application that will listen to the network for commands. Such applications can be used to gain complete access to the server.

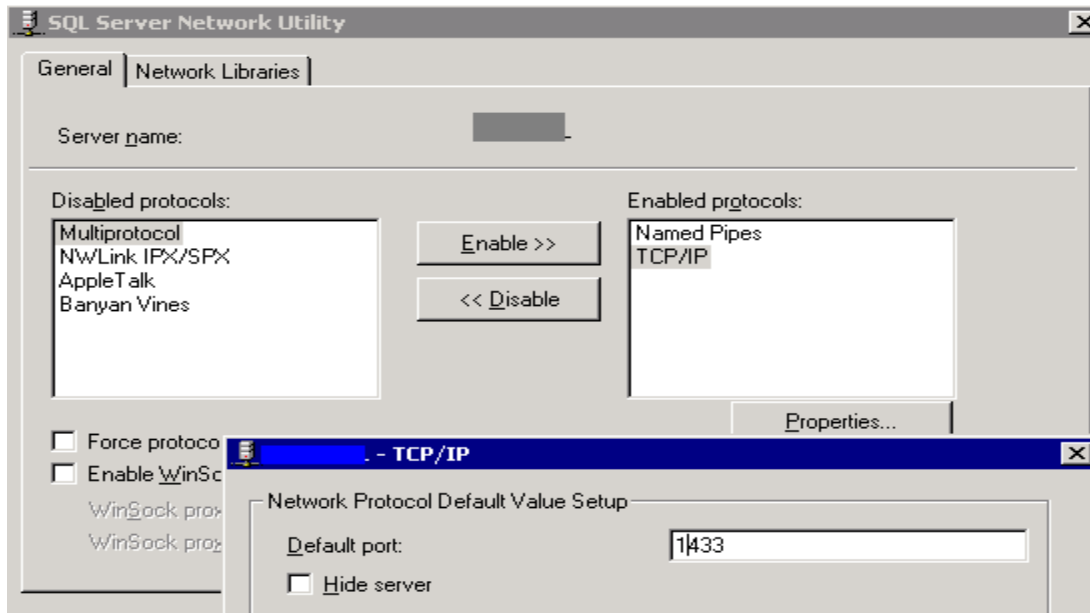
It is recommended that port filtering be implemented on the server to limit the exposure related to network aware malware.

Finding 6 – SQL listening port

Priority: High

Reference: Audit Item #10, page 65

The vendor has added the capability to change the default port that SQL uses to listen to the network. In addition to being able to change the port, the capability to hide the port being listened to has also been implemented. This functionality serves to hide the server from automated tools that scan entire subnets to find SQL servers on the Internet. The server is listening to the default port of 1433 and it is not hidden. A process should be implemented that calls for a periodic scan of the network from the Internet. This will detect any deviations in the future and will help secure the network from intruders.



Risks

Attackers will use automated tools to discover SQL servers in a subnet. By having the server listening to the default port of 1433, discovery of the SQL server would be possible if the rule-set on the firewall does not block port 1433 or if the firewall is compromised. Once the discovery is made, an attacker would use other applications to attempt compromise of the server.

Audit Recommendations

As stated in the overview, it is highly recommended the detection and response capabilities for this server be improved. Implementation of detection and response mechanisms will satisfy all Time Based Security requirements. Additionally, it is recommended that all stored procedures be analyzed for potential misuse. Their removal or hardening of their permissions should be reviewed and implemented in a timely manner.

- 1) Response capabilities are impacted by a lack of a notification system: Implement a notification process and a pager rotation for on-call staff members. This will greatly reduce the time required to respond to a security breach. The likelihood of requiring a notification of an attempted attack in progress is high, and the consequence of not having this system in place is a complete breakdown of response capabilities. The costs for the implementation are relatively low (estimated 5 days effort), since the technical requirements to implement the solution are provided by the vendor. During testing of the solution, it may be determined that additional hardware/software must be purchased (e.g. pager capabilities) depending on the functionality required.

- 2) Detection capabilities are impacted by a lack of auditing: Implement auditing of transactions within the database and develop a script that will analyze the log files for suspicious text strings as part of a detection process. Without the logging of activity, it is impossible to determine who performed an improper action and if their intent was malicious or accidental. As with the notification, the likelihood of requiring a detection mechanism for actions taken within the database is high. The cost of implementing this solution is estimated to be 5 days of effort. Depending on the amount of log data generated and the archiving period required, a separate log server may be required due to the amount of log entries, but at the present time, data can be stored on the existing server.
- 3) Limit potential impact of stored procedures: Review all stored procedures listed in the audit checklist. Removal or hardening of permissions is highly recommended to remove the possibility of them being used as a vehicle to stage an attack on the server or the computing infrastructure. The likelihood of an attack using one of the existing stored procedures is low, however, as is the case with xp_cmdshell, their potential for damage is severe. Complete control of the server and the entire network can be gained. Additionally, several SQL vulnerabilities that focus on system stored procedures have been recently released. The cost of implementing this solution is estimated at 5 days of effort. Once the initial changes are implemented, a process should be created to allow for a periodic review of stored procedures available in the system.
- 4) Increase administrative security awareness: Staff should attend formal security training to increase their awareness of all aspects of security, not just the preventative side of security. Vendor neutral training will give the administrator a greater understanding of defense in depth security and how to properly maintain security in the organization. The cost of this initiative is estimated to be \$3000 USD.
- 5) Enable port filtering on the server. Many Trojan applications written are network aware and will listen to the network via a port in order to communicate with the attacker. By enabling port filtering, an attacker may be thwarted in their attempts to collect data from the system. The costs related with this initiative are estimated to be 1 hour, which includes connectivity testing. Through the implementation of both port filtering on the server and the creation of a network scanning procedure, future risks regarding listening ports on the network would be mitigated.
- 6) Software Update Services. Software Update Services (SUS) is available from Microsoft at no cost and is a means to automate existing patch processes for all servers in the enterprise. The effort for this implementation is estimated at 5 days. Presently, the probability of a published vulnerability being exploited on the server is low, due to the inability of clients to access the server from

the Internet. Implementation of this system will address the root cause of the failure itself, which is believed to be the lack of personnel available to address patch management.

Costs

The majority of costs are associated with the time required to configure, test and implement the recommendations. No software or hardware purchases are required for the recommendations. Because all changes should be made in a lab environment, all of the recommendations will take time to implement due to the doubling of effort to make the changes on the production server.

Approximate costing guideline for recommendations

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Initial Stored Procedure review and implementation (5 days @ \$300/day): | \$ 1500 |
| Initial enforcement of auditing and log storage (5 days @ \$300/day): | \$ 1500 |
| Initial creation and implement notification process (5 days effort @ \$300/day): | \$ 1500 |
| Security Training (\$3000USD @ 1.57 exchange rate) | \$ 4710 |
| Software Update Services (Windows Update) implementation | \$ 1500 |
| Approximate totals for implementation of recommendations | \$10710 CDN |

Please note that costs listed are for the initial implementation of the systems. Ongoing costs are estimated as follows:

Ongoing effort for Stored Procedures @ 2days/year (½ day per quarter) \$600/Yr.

Ongoing effort for log reviews @ 26 days/year (½ day per week) \$7800/Yr.

Notification system. Varies, depending on alerts generated. Unknown.

Software Update Services. Varies, depending on updates. Unknown.

Compensating Controls

With the exception of the security training, all of the recommendations made within this report are both necessary and low cost measures that can be performed by the system administrator.

The lack of segregation of duties (due to company having one administrator) can be compensated by the implementation of periodic reviews of changes made by the administrator.

Short of implementing a notification system, a process could be created whereby the administrator of the system views the logs every morning for suspicious activity. Although response would remain hindered, there would be a detection mechanism put in place. This process would also assist with log storage. If the logs were reviewed every morning, there would be a lesser demand for log storage space.

Stored procedures could have a blanket permission set established and have the required functionality restored as required by adding permissions as needed. This would alleviate the time requirement for hardening or removing stored procedures.

Timely patching could alleviate the requirement for the implementation of SUS. This would require the implementation of a process for patch maintenance and complete participation of the administrator to perform these patches in a timely manner.

The Company may opt to send the administrator to SANS online training instead of attending the SANS conference. This decision would save approximately \$700 USD.

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