SAP Security
NEWSLETTER

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SAP's New Chief Security Officer

On January 1, 2004 Dr Sachar Paulus, known to many of you as SAP's Director of Product Security, took up the post of Chief Security Officer. His remit includes broad strategic responsibility for security topics, spanning IT, organizational and product areas. We in Security Product Management would like to take this opportunity to wish Sachar and his new team every success, and look forward to working closely with them in future. Look out for an interview with Sachar in the print edition of SAPINFO in March. You can subscribe to SAPINFO at www.sapinfo.net.

2004 - The Year to Hack ERP Systems?

Recently, several articles have appeared in the German media, claiming that SAP software has been targeted by hackers after a presentation at the 20th Chaos Communication Congress in Berlin, Germany showed some security weaknesses in SAP servers running Windows. SAP has already created patches and made them available to SAP customers.

Sponsored by the Chaos Computer Club, the event features numerous presentations related to IT, but the club is best known for "hacking" exploits of its members; in this case "hacking" refers to the discovery of security weaknesses, not the use of those weaknesses for personal or financial gain. The actual exploit involved a buffer overflow: by manipulating a URL, the hacker could send parameters to an SAP Internet Transaction Server that allowed the hacker to then gain access to other portions of the server's memory and execute commands on the server's operating system.

At the conference, it was also announced that 2004 is the year for the hacker community to turn its attention to ERP systems such as SAP. Security is a high priority at SAP and since it is an important quality of SAP software, SAP aims to provide a uniform level of security for all its solutions.

SAPINFO Online Article: How Complete Is Your Approach to Security?

Anyone who's been paying attention to security over the last couple of years know that there's more to it than just firewalls. But just which techniques and technologies do companies need to employ, and how does SAP help keep your information safe?

You can read the full article by SAP security product manager, Sarah Maidstone, online: http://www.sap.info/public/frameset.php4/article/Article-239253fd065310c87a/EN

Data Protection Guide for SAP BW (German language only)

The Auditing and Risk Management working group of the German SAP User Group (DSAG) has released a data protection guide for SAP BW Release 3.1. Because it relates directly to the German data protection laws, this document is available in German only, and can be downloaded here: http://www.sap.com/germany/aboutSAP/revis/infomaterial.asp

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Upcoming Events

The American SAP User Group (ASUG) Security Influence Council has resumed its regular phone conferences. Fridays from 7.30 to 9.30 am Pacific Time, members will be discussing J2EE security, SAP BW security, Web services security, SAP EP security, and exchanging experiences of implementing SAP security. To take part, you need to be a member of ASUG, and register with Karen Signoracci: ksignoracci@smithbucklin.com.

February 17 - 18 sees the next meeting of the DSAG's technology working group in Rot, Germany. For details, see www.dsag.de.

February 19, SAP security product manager Sarah Maidstone will be speaking at a meeting of the German Pharmaceuticals Validation Group in Munich.

February 23 - 27 sees a number of SAP security experts at the RSA Conference 2004 in San Francisco. Come and meet them in person at the SAP booth (1401). For more information, and to register for the conference, visit www.rsaconference.com.

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