



SERVICE BRIEFING: SERVER HARDENING

Objectives

Implementing the Safecomms “gold standard” Windows 2003 server hardening templates enables the following objectives to be achieved:

- i. Windows 2003 servers are made as secure as a well configured Unix server
- ii. There is a fully defined, repeatable, straightforward and highly secure build process for all Windows 2003 servers across the organisation
- iii. Security policies and procedures are automatically applied through the settings in Group Policy Editor

Scope

There is a “gold standard” server hardening template available for each server role. It is recommended that each server role is hardened. The scope of the project is therefore typically the implementation of the gold standard template on each different server role (e.g. SQL server, mail server, web server, file server, DNS server, Oracle server), and the customisation and testing of those templates within the client’s infrastructure.

The templates cover all of the 400 plus settings in the 2003 Group Policy Editor. These settings are then applied automatically through the Active Directory, or locally on stand-alone systems.

The templates are fully proven. They have been developed and deployed in some of Australia’s most demanding and complex computer environments where they receive a 365x24x7 thrashing, and have in all cases remained rock solid.

Methodology

The implementation of each Safecomms gold standard hardening template requires the attendance on site of a Safecomms consultant for one day. During that day, the following actions are taken:

- i. Customisation of the template to meet the client’s operating environment and to reflect the client’s current security policies and procedures
- ii. Implementation and testing of the customised template
- iii. Hand over of templates and comprehensive settings guide

During the course of the implementation of the template it is strongly recommended that a technical representative of the client is present to receive a practical know how transfer from the Safecomms consultant (this is an important part of the implementation process). This will ensure that the client will have the in house capability to apply the templates to additional servers of the same role in the future, if required.

Deliverables

The deliverables are as follows:

- i. Safecomms’ gold standard hardening templates fully implemented for each server role, customised as necessary.
- ii. Comprehensive settings guide (in plain English)
- iii. Know how transfer to client’s engineers.



Windows 2003 servers can be made as secure as well administered Unix servers if all the settings in Group Policy Editor are addressed. Safecomms has developed the “gold standard” templates.

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