

RE: Microsoft Can't Win.

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/securityfocus/focus-ms/2001-10/0108.html>

From: Evans, TJ (tjevans@kpmg.com)

Date: 10/09/01

Message-Id: <D503BBD92FE9D2118A010008C75F64480A3A29D4@usnssex20.us.kworld.kpmg.com>
From: "Evans, TJ" <tjevans@kpmg.com>
To: focus-ms@securityfocus.com
Subject: RE: Microsoft Can't Win.
Date: Tue, 9 Oct 2001 16:07:00 -0400

I agree to some extent, and of course in a perfect world there would be no vulnerabilities in anything ... and we would not need to sacrifice any usability, functionality, or connectivity to attain a utopia of absolute security.

Giving up on that, an application-level firewall can also help protect the services ... blocking certain types of "bad things" <malformed packets, http/cmd.exe requests, etc.>.

"Layers of defense" ... atleast in the foreseeable future, you cannot be 100% secure, the big idea here is to get "perfect balance" of cost, functionality, etc. ... with "perfect" being relative to your specific environment, needs, capabilities, budget, political environment and sometimes the seemingly random collisions of subatomic particles ... :)

For the record – "dumping the firewall" would not be my recommendation, in fact – I recommend improving them!

<Keep in mind – even a relatively secured box can still eventually be affected by a new "0 day" vulnerability and having multiple layers of defense can stop/slow 'burn rate'>

Thanks!

TJ

-----Original Message-----

From: TD – Sales International Holland B.V. [<mailto:td@salesint.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 08, 2001 4:37 PM

To: Turner, Keith

Cc: focus-ms@securityfocus.com

Subject: Re: Microsoft Can't Win.

Personally I rather see the services more secure..... A firewall only stops traffic to services, services that are allowed thru the firewall get 0 protection from it. In other words, dump the firewall and set those resources

RE: Microsoft Can't Win.

SecurityFocus Microsoft: RE: Microsoft Can't Win.

on securing IIS etc. I saw a line on this