

Re: Hearing the truth??

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/securityfocus/focus-sun/2004-02/0014.html>

From: Mathieu Nantel (nantel_at_ecopiabio.com)

Date: 02/18/04

To: focus-sun@securityfocus.com

Date: Wed, 18 Feb 2004 13:51:58 -0500

Well, I'm not sure why it was worded like this. You need to delete the user's entries in /etc/passwd and /etc/shadow. That's done by "userdel". That's what I call "deleting a user".

Now from the perspective of "files", it's not very elegant to delete an account (remove the entries from /etc/passwd and shadow) when the user still has files lying about. The thought here is that deleting the account makes the files that the user owned show a UID instead of a username. Purely "functional". In no way does it prevent you from deleting the account.

What I typically do is change the user's shell to /bin/false and passwd -l the account. Then, you can find all the files the user owned and change the owner to someone else. This part would be specific to your environment.

So getting back to the affirmative "The only way you can delete a user account on a unix environment is to write a series of scripts to eliminate file associations." : this is false unless it is clarified.

Mat

On Tuesday February 17 2004 20:22, OBrien, Brennan wrote:

> All:

>

> *I've got an interesting situation at the office I could use some advice
> on. I'm being asked from a security perspective whether the following
> statement (made by our Unix admins) could be considered true:*

>

> *"The only way you can delete a user account on a unix environment is to
> write a series of scripts to eliminate file associations."*

>

> *So, while I don't disagree with the logic, is this actually the case
> that there are no commercial tools available to assist in this arena,
> and the only method of deleting a user on a system safely and
> effectively is to write a bunch of scripts on your own? This just begs
> to be a problem solved by a commercial entity if it's actually the case.*

>

>

SecurityFocus SUN: Re: Hearing the truth??

> *We're in a Sun environment. Some thoughts would be appreciated.*

>

> *Brennan*

--

```
=====
Mathieu Nantel - RHCE,CCNA                               Ecopia BioSciences
Systems Manager                                           (514) 336-2724 x434
nantel@ecopiabio.com
```

```
=====
[*] Please avoid sending me Word/Excel/PowerPoint attachments.
`----> See: http://www.fsf.org/philosophy/no-word-attachments.html
=====
```