

Inadequate documentation and knowledge

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.security.misc/2002-05/0649.html>

From: C Colon (foobar@asia.com)

Date: 05/29/02

From: foobar@asia.com (C Colon)
Date: 28 May 2002 23:27:51 -0700

If you look at vendor documentation for any kind of product, be it an operating system, an application system, or just a network device, what comes across strongly is that all vendors bring in a lot of effort to make the entire document jazzy, feature rich, and fantastic to look at. But is this **really** helping?

What all these documents lack is a seriousness to point out the risks of leaving security loopholes. While it might mention that passwords should be of such and such length, it will not try and document why passwords should have a minimum length and what are the potential pitfalls and business risk implications. Have any one of you come across any operating system which warns the user against unsecure configurations during installation? I would say No, 99 cases out of 100. Even then, I am optimistic!!

How many operating systems vendors even disclose to each purchaser that a 8 character long password would take so much time for cracking with such and such configuration? I'm just providing an example here.

While vendors talk at length about how security is paramount, they would still go to great lengths to make a multimedia file work on your computer, rather than work towards providing a secure computing environment without having to try very hard at things such as proper configuration management, site hardening, et al. While these do keep us in the security business busy and provides us with the moolah which makes our life happy, have we gone so far into commercialisation that we sell faulty parts to keep our service departments happy?

What would help? Search me – Perhaps a worldwide forum of like minded individuals would be powerful enough to tell vendors that preaching security is nowhere near practicing and enforcing security.

Regards,
C:\>

Kindly post replies to the newsgroups
itself

- *Next message:* RCC: "Re: We've been compromised, now what..."
- *Previous message:* Dazza: "Re: We've been compromised, now what..."
- *Messages sorted by:* [date] [thread] [subject] [author] [attachment]