



Monday, May 28, 2007

- About Us
- Contact Us
- Media Kits
- Site Map
- Privacy Policy
- Recent News
- Subscriptions
- Our Events
- Events
- Meet our Partners



▶▶ RECENT NEWS

Search this site

Enter a topic ▶ GO

[← Back](#)
[✉ Email to a Friend](#)
[🖨 Print this Page](#)
[👍 Digg this article](#)
[📄 Related Content](#)



Survey highlights security skills gap

Overwhelming number of Canadian firms fail network penetration tests

5/24/2007 4:50:00 PM

by Nestor Arellano



Nearly half of Canadian companies experienced security breaches and organizations must act quickly to correct a “skills gap” in the area of control systems and application protection, according to [Canadian security experts](#).

The call for increased training was made Wednesday after an Ipsos Reid survey revealed that 47 per cent of companies in Canada were subjected to virus attacks and other forms of breaches in the last five years.

The study, commissioned by [CMS Consulting Inc.](#), a Toronto-based IT infrastructure and security firm, also indicated that a majority of decision makers saw a need for training IT staff on security.

More than half (67 per cent) of the executives said they believed their workers would benefit from more security training.

“Organizations feel good about their (IT) structures but perceive there is a significant skills gap when it comes to dealing with the threats that are out there,” said Brian Bourne, president, CMS Consulting.

He said 76 per cent of the firms polled believe securing the IT network is one of their highest priorities.

Bourne said 90 per cent of companies that conducted self penetration tests reported that their systems were “effectively compromised” by the testers.

This indicates a growing need to beef-up protection for control systems according to another expert.

“Organizations haven't been able to scale up to the challenges,” according to Chris Blask, founder

▶▶ ITBUSINESS.CA ASKS

If vendors ever get past the battery issue, will laptops take over?

- Unlikely. Nothing will ever supplant the desktop
- It's bound to increase sales. Who doesn't want a laptop?
- Laptops have bigger problems than mere battery life

▶ VOTE

[View Results](#)

and CEO of Toronto-based security systems integrator Lofty Perch Inc.

Blask said increasing integration of company assets under a single IT infrastructure and control system has improved efficiency but elevated inherent risks.

For instance, he said most air traffic control facilities have perimeter security, operational systems, and IT components tied to networks and switches monitored by a single control system. Most networks are also accessible via Internet to enable remote access.

“While firewalls are deployed to protect these systems, connections to the PSTN (public switched telephone network) and wireless services are often inadequately defended against breaches,” Blask said.

Another industry insider said a growing number of hacker attacks are now aimed at applications. However, majority of IT staff are not trained in dealing with application security, according to Brian O'Higgins, chief technology officer, Third Brigade Inc. based in Ottawa.

“Application software tools are the Achilles heel of most organizations,” O'Higgins said.

He explained that 75 per cent of attacks are targeted on applications because hackers consider them as a “low-hanging fruit.”

“It's easier to load malware onto applications because they are now available through the Internet and are allowed to bypass firewalls,” said O'Higgins.

Even basic training on how to protect applications would result in immediate benefits, he added.

“Companies mustn't concentrate on the threats because they will always be there. Rather, organizations must focus on reducing vulnerability,” O'Higgins said.

Comment: info@itbusiness.ca

[Back](#) [Email to a Friend](#) [Print this Page](#) [Digg this article](#) [Top](#)

▶▶ GET ANSWERS

Data Management
Web analytics could increase marketing reliance on IT
by Kathleen Lau



[More Data Management](#)

E-Government
Federal tech program offers 'buddy system' with India and China
by Kathleen Lau

[More E-Government](#)

Networking
Saskatchewan plans wireless network for four cities
by Briony Smith



[More Networking](#)

Wireless
Wireless next
by Paolo Del Nibletto



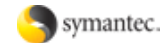
[More Wireless](#)

Channel
IBM to be an SMB company
by Jeff Jedras



[More Channel](#)

Security
Canadian think-tank sees danger in cross-border biometrics
by Nestor Arellano



[More Security](#)

Storage
Symantec, Huawei join forces
by Jeff Jedras

[More Storage](#)

E-Business
Google's 'universal search' to integrate results
by Shane Schick

[More E-Business](#)

IT Opinions
U.S. plays the blame Canada game
by Grant Buckler

[More IT Opinions](#)

Infrastructure
Big Blue gets its green on
by Joaquim Menezes



[More Infrastructure](#)

Training
The coach's corner
by Vawn Himmelsbach

[More Training](#)

SMB
Cisco Systems to focus on SMB
by Paolo Del Nibletto



[More SMB](#)

VoIP



Outsourcing



[Nortel adds to SMB offerings](#)
by Howard Solomon

[Accenture's CTO gets his Web 2.0 on](#)
by Grant Buckler

[More VoIP](#) ↗

[More Outsourcing](#) ↗

© 2007 ITworldcanada.com All rights reserved.