

Re: Is VMS losing the Financial Sector, also?

<90d24\$468d09bd\$cef8887a\$5386@xxxxxxxxxxxx>,
JF Mezei
<jfmezei.spamnot@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
writes:

Mr
Main,
with
ragards
to
your
patches
issue.

In
the
late
1990s,
the
weenies
would
convince
management
to

deploy

Windows
because
it
was
a
lot
cheaper,
there
were
a
lot
more

available

staff
and
it
had

Re: Is VMS losing the Financial Sector, also?

an
assured
future.
When
asked
if
there
was
a

virus

problem,
the
answer
would
inevitably
be
"we'll
set
it
up
properly

and it

won't
affect
us".

By
the
time
they
got
hit
with
I
LOVE
YOU
or
some
other

debilitating

Re: Is VMS losing the Financial Sector, also?

event,
their
deployment
of
windows
was
so
entrenched
that
it
was
impossible
to
change
to
a
real
OS
so
thet
learned
to
live
with
it

and

try
to
minimise
the
damage.

Your
story
of
Vista
switching
back
to
VMS
because
of
a
windows

virus is

Re: Is VMS losing the Financial Sector, also?

very
good,
but
unfortunately
rare.

=20
And
probably
not the
whole (or
even the
real) story
as what
people
use
Vista for
can not be
done on
VMS. Vista
is a desktop
operating
system,
not a server
operating
system.
=20
bill
=20

Bill...

mmm.. you missed the
point.

The earlier URL points to a
company called VISTA that
packages or uses a
mission critical software
package called SCADA on a
number of platforms.
One of their Customers was
running Windows Server
and was down for 2
days because of a nasty
virus. Subsequently, they
have since switched to

Re: Is VMS losing the Financial Sector, also?

OpenVMS on Integrity and
by the report, the migration
went very well.

Absolutely zero to do with
client stuff.

OK, sorry. When one uses the terms "Vista"
and Windows in the same
paragraph today certain assumptions are
bound to be made. So then,
this just goes back to the original argument
about someone was doing
with a server that allowed it to come in
contact with a virus!! If
the VMS system is managed as badly as the
Windows system obviously
was they are bound to have problems even
with VMS. Not necessarily
the same problems, but problems and
possibly security problems. No
OS is immune from the effects of
incompetent sys admins.

If I read you correctly you seem to be claiming that only
incompetently
managed Windows systems get infected. If so, you are far
from correct.
There are many documented cases of systems being hacked
and/or
infected even though they were up to date on patches and
running current
antivirus software (as well as other protections).

There is a lot more to admining any system than just that. Starting
with a proper config.

Look up the impact
of almost any zero-day exploit to name just one example.

I don't have to all I have to do is look at systems that are not being
hacked/zombied/infected. A properly admined IT system, no matter what
the OS, is going to be stable, secure and usefull. The reciprocal also

Re: Is VMS losing the Financial Sector, also?

applies, no matter what the OS.

The fact that the news is loaded with cases of systems being hacked only points out the fact that with the proliferation of IT systems has come a dearth of competent sysadmins. Just because you adminned the 2 PC's in your high school library when you were a sophomore doesn't make you a sysadmin. Any more than the fact that you ran a web site on Linux out of your dad's garage during the dot-com boom made you an "IT Professional". Maybe, in the name of true investigative reporting, the journals running these articles should also publish the credentials of the parties responsible for maintaining the systems. Oh wait, if we did that we would have to stop bashing Windows, Unix. Can't have that now, can we.....

bill

If competent administration is all that is needed to prevent a system from being hijacked, then why do you need *any* antivirus software at all?

And why do you *ever* need to apply any patches?

So, what, is everything mutually exclusive here? Using anti-virus software (are you aware that you should actually be using at least two different anti-virus products?) and applying patches (as needed based on your system and operational necessity) is part of being a competent sys admin.

The answer, of course, is that a system exposed to a virus or an unpatched exploit can get hacked anyway, no matter how competent the administrator.

Well, being as we are talking server boxes and not desktops, a competent sysadmin doesn't read email or surf the web with the server box which would eliminate pretty much all the standard attack vectors. Which comes back to the Los Alamos story. Just how did the server get exposed to the virus?

Re: Is VMS losing the Financial Sector, also?

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Keeping up on patches and A/V is part of the job of the administrator.

Of course it is. But that doesn't mean installing every patch whether it applies to your system or not or applying it the second you hear it exists. It is the sys admin's job to decide the impact and then decide when and even if the patch is an operational necessity. For example, if my server does not need to serve up webpages I certainly wouldn't install the IIS component on it. So then, why would I apply IIS patches?

But there is a race condition. What if the bad guy attacks before the O/S vendor knows about the exploit,

Not knowing "the exploit" this question can obviously not be answered. Of course, what if a meteor hits your data center and lands right on top of your prime server? I try not to lose sleep over things over which I have no control.

or the A/V vendor designs, implements and distributes a test for it?

If you don't let your servers access the known virus vectors this is a non-problem.

Then you're up the creek. What are the chances of this happening? Obviously, the more viruses and serious O/S bugs, the greater the odds.

Well, the virus ones are easy to avoid, as I (and others) have repeatedly pointed out. The others take a much more complete scheme but can be avoided as well.

bill

—

Bill Gunshannon | de-moc-ra-cy (di mok' ra see) n. Three wolves
bill@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx | and a sheep voting on what's for dinner.
University of Scranton |
Scranton, Pennsylvania | #include <std.disclaimer.h>

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