

Effective Security is Simple

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Abstract

All data has value. Quantifying that value is the foundation for all aspects of a system. The increasing reliance on the digital world to generate, store, and distribute data should mandate that mechanisms for controlling and securing data also be available. Unfortunately this is often not the case. Security often takes a back seat to new functionality. The focus is often on new ways to generate, store, and distribute data and only later is thought given to ways to control and secure data. In addition to real threats to data including deliberate theft, disclosure, and damage, which are the most difficult to protect against, more and more resources must be spent to safeguard data against the increasingly popular “sport” of “hacking”. IT professionals are often looked upon to solve this problem but ironically there is no IT technology that can solve this problem. Often the need to add-on security after the fact translates into ineffective solutions and dramatic impacts to usability and functionality. Implementing effective security for data can be a daunting task, and an effective security strategy includes the following characteristics: simplicity, clarity, proximity, depth, and vigilance.