

A large, abstract graphic on the left side of the page, consisting of overlapping, semi-transparent, curved shapes in various shades of gray, creating a sense of depth and movement.

INFORMATION SECURITY FOR PRAGMATISTS

A Guide to Delivering Business Value
White Paper
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Chapter 1

Executive Summary

How Sun's Experience Can Help Guide Your Security Initiatives

The days of security as merely a necessary cost center within the enterprise are long gone. Today, security can and must serve as an enabler to the business, wholly integrated with its larger objectives and playing a key strategic role in achieving them. In order for security to meet these expectations, IT must understand the requirements of the business, deliver security solutions that focus on its objectives, and implement the appropriate policies, staffing, and resources necessary to meet those objectives.

That's the ideal scenario, as Sun sees it. In reality, no IT department has an infinite security budget and infinite time to execute on a strategy of business enablement. Sun therefore focuses on security as a value-add component to the business strategy — one of several carefully considered components in the business-project life cycle. The Sun approach to security employs architectures, policies, tactics, processes, and procedures. The integration of these attributes, in harmony with the overall business strategy, yields a true business enabler.

How can this approach help with your own business and security challenges? Sun faces many of the same challenges as its customers. In that respect, the company provides a real-life environment for deploying security-related Sun technologies and services, seeing how they work and what they help the company to achieve. This paper is intended to share what Sun is doing to make sure that security addresses business objectives and enhances business growth, in the hope that you can apply some of these same tactics and strategies in your own business.

The remainder of this paper is devoted to exploring:

- Security capabilities that support key business drivers
- The importance of alignment and integration
- Critical investments for success
- Long-term sustainable security

Let's look at each of these more closely.

Chapter 2

Security Capabilities that Support Key Business Drivers

What are the key business drivers that security can support? Compliance with regulatory requirements (and, increasingly, international laws) is, at this time, perhaps the most important driver. Sun always complies with government regulations and requirements, doing everything we can to make sure we are compliant with Sarbanes-Oxley and any other regulations that affect us.

But while compliance may be an important driver for Sun and other companies today, it is by no means the only one. These include worker mobility, connected customers and partners, and business process outsourcing, to name just a few. The following security capabilities play important parts in helping to achieve these objectives.

Network Authentication

Today at Sun, once people are past the facility security perimeter, they can walk into our facilities and attach to our network — in other words, they are past the castle wall and moat. That makes network admission (authentication) control Sun's number one security priority inside the network. There is an extremely high priority on network authentication, with multilayer security as the driving principle. As part of that, Sun is deploying a security-layered implementation of mobile computing capabilities that enable business users to do their jobs.

Access Control

It is one thing to deploy intrusion detection, a secure password framework, and other critical components of access control, but there must also be a capability to provide network isolation to various campuses to limit exposure in the event of a broad attack on the company's systems. That is a high priority for Sun at this time. The use of Sun identity management capabilities, such as role-based access to critical applications, is ongoing.

Chapter 3

The Importance of Alignments

Successfully protecting a company's digital assets relies on being aligned with other efforts both within and outside the company. For Sun, this means alignment with industry standards, as well as various internal initiatives.

Alignment with Standards

Sun believes that a company's security practice should be based on Information Security Foundation (ISF) practices. ISF standards cover how a company architects its security strategy in terms of programs, organization, and structure, as well as how it allocates resources to threat-and-vulnerability assessments, legal and regulatory matters, and strategy concerns. Sun IT security leverages standards extensively, taking advantage of best practices to help make sure that we are doing the right thing.

Aligning with Internal Initiatives

Sun is working hard to align all security-related pillars within the enterprise. One of the priorities of the Corporate Information Security Office (CISO) is to closely align its activities with those of other security-related enterprise endeavors. The CISO constantly aligns its activities with the company's strategy and vision. In addition, the CISO works closely with the Privacy Office to be sure that IS activities support key privacy initiatives. And the CISO meets regularly with the Physical Security Office to ensure that information system (IS) efforts maximize enterprise potential. The goal is to build a united coalition of partners within Sun — a strong coalition that will be able to meet the ever-increasing demands of protecting the company's digital assets. Ultimately, the objective is to ensure that security pillars within the enterprise work in a unified manner to enable the business strategy.

Chapter 4

Critical Investments for Success

Building an information security infrastructure with the capabilities to deliver true business value requires strategic investments in key areas — investments that will pay off in enabling business strategies. The following are Sun's investment priorities for security.

Java™ Badge Deployment Across the Enterprise

Deployment of the Java™ Badge is critical to enabling Sun's business strategy. The Java Badge is Sun's implementation of Java Card[tm] technology — a secure computing platform capable of hosting a variety of enterprise credential-based and payment applications. With the correct execution, Sun will be able to unite a multitude of capabilities provided by the Java Badge. It can serve not only as a corporate identification and physical access card, but also as a means for authentication, secure ID challenge and response, and e-purse payments. A key goal in this effort is for customers to learn from Sun's own experience in deploying this exciting technology.

IT Security Staff Development

IT security professionals are absolutely critical to any enterprise that is concerned about risk reduction (and what enterprise isn't?). They represent a highly sought-after group of individuals, so developing the IT staff in this area is a top priority for Sun. These individuals are important not just because we face large risks, but because those risks change so rapidly. Ill-intentioned people have a huge ability to wreak havoc on the network today. Protecting digital assets against those people must be a key capability for Sun — or any company.

Security Awareness Development

Development of security awareness throughout the enterprise is another area well worth significant investment. Building a culture of security awareness is critical to protecting enterprise assets. People need to understand that many threats to the network exist — not just to the infrastructure itself, but also the components that they touch every day, including telecommunication assets like cell phones. So everything must be securely protected, from the infrastructure to the e-complex to mobile devices on the network. Sun is investing a tremendous effort in the detection, defense, and deterrence necessary to secure our infrastructure. The company needs all of its people to act as extensions of the IT security team.

Chapter 5

Long-Term Sustainable Security

Sun has identified a number of key tactics that must be in place to make security sustainable, including:

- Utilization of standard frameworks
- Mobility with security
- Standards of governance
- Compliance monitoring
- Enforcement

To execute successfully in these areas, it is essential to extend the security team across business groups, utilizing advocates and champions embedded in virtual teams.

The Role of Enterprise Leadership

Everybody needs to remember that security is a business enabler — something to be considered every time a business decision is made. Enterprise leadership must think about security, just as it thinks about growing market share and go-to-market plans. Some part of every leader's thinking must be associated with the business they are creating and the security challenges that those models pose.

Getting to “Yes”

Sun looks to IT security policies and practices to be business enablers, not business inhibitors. The Sun CISO, as a matter of both culture and policy, wants to find ways to say “yes” — or, more specifically, ways to say “How can we do it securely?” — instead of saying “no.” As the owner of a company's security policy, sometimes the CISO may be called upon to say “no,” but there should always be a good basis for doing so. For Sun, most of the time the CISO is here to enable the business and operate in a secure manner using Sun™ technology, processes, and partners.

Chapter 5

Conclusion

If it is done right, security enables business models. That ultimately benefits an enterprise's business thinking and operations, enhancing its growth. The scale and the size of this challenge can be daunting. But Sun is completely confident that with the support of enterprise leadership and the entire employee base, it can be done. People are arguably the most important part of the solution: They must protect assets of the company that sustains them. With everyone in security aligned in vision and strategy, working together tactically, your most important business objectives can be achieved.

To learn more about identity management and its role in meeting the information security challenges faced by today's organizations, or to request additional information about Sun identity management solutions, visit www.sun.com/identity.

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