THE TOP 3 REASONS APPLICATION SECURITY PROGRAMS FAIL

INTRODUCTION

The main hurdle that prohibits organizations from embarking on an advanced application security program is knowing where to start. But once you've figured out your starting point and your key metrics, and worked with groups in your enterprise to create a strategy, your program still isn't guaranteed to be a success. There are a number of common hazards companies typically fail to consider when implementing their program.

The three most common pitfalls to avoid if you want your program to succeed include:

1. **Lack of policy enforcement**
2. **Lack of expertise on how to reduce risk**
3. **Failure to create a culture of security**

LACK OF POLICY ENFORCEMENT

Your team can create strong application security policies that will, in theory, reduce the number of vulnerabilities in the applications built and purchased by your enterprise. However, if these policies are ignored or become such a nuisance that your coworkers find work-arounds, then, in practice, the policies are useless. Your best intentions have become your downfall.

As part of the application security roll-out, provide training on why the policies are important and how to adhere to them. Most importantly, you should create mechanisms to ensure the policies will be enforced.

LACK OF EXPERTISE IN RISK REDUCTION

Application security is not like other forms of IT security. Creating a program takes a great deal of pre-planning and coordination between teams. It also requires knowledge about risk reduction strategies, the application development process and programming techniques. That is a lot to ask of a security professional. This is why the enterprises that have

5 Steps to a Better Application Security Program

Despite the challenge of tracking down and securing vulnerabilities, many companies have successfully taken on the task of designing an AppSec program that meets corporate needs and protects company assets. Here are five application security best practices to help improve end results:

1. **Inventory your apps**
2. **Integrate security into the SDLC**
3. **Understand risk in/ risk out**
4. **Learn about the different security layers**
5. **Evolve your security ecosystem**

the most successful programs are also the ones that work with partners who have this expertise. Without these partners, choosing the right metrics and goals as well as knowing where to start and how to move forward will be like taking a shot in the dark. You are unlikely to hit the target.

FAILURE TO CREATE A CULTURE OF SECURITY

Making sure security becomes part of your enterprise's overall culture is an important step to ensuring your application security policies are followed. Many enterprises work hard to create a strong and practical application security program, only to see it fail because the rest of the enterprise doesn't see the value or make it a priority.

Creating a culture of security starts with making sure all employees understand how security impacts the entire organization and why it is every employee's responsibility to behave in a secure manner. Advanced application security programs require employees to behave in ways they may not be accustomed to. Without an understanding of the value of security, developers, software purchasers and others in your enterprise will find ways to circumvent your policies to make their jobs easier.

CONCLUSION

After all the work you put into creating an application security program, the last thing you want is for a lack of understanding or weak policy enforcement to derail your efforts. But, this happens all too often. By making sure you have realistic policy enforcements, working with partners who have expertise in risk reduction, and creating a culture of security, you will be making major strides toward ensuring your program reaches its goals.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Putting Security into DevOps, https://info.veracode.com/whitepaper-securosis-putting-security-into-devops.html

Ultimate Guide to Getting Started with Application Security, https://info.veracode.com/whitepaper-ultimate-guide-getting-started-with-application-security.html

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