

Verdasys Publishes New Security Paper by Dan Geer

Controversial Risk Management Expert Makes Case for Security at the Data Level

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – RSA Conference – February 23, 2004 – Verdasys, Inc., provider of insider risk management solutions, today announced the immediate availability of a new white paper by Dr. Daniel E. Geer, Jr., ScD., who is the company's vice president and chief scientist, a distinguished author and an independent security consultant. The paper, "The Shrinking Perimeter: Making the Case for Data-Level Risk Management," asserts that the time has come to reassess the adequacy of the traditional perimeter to appropriately protect sensitive, proprietary and regulated business information. The paper is available immediately for download from www.verdasys.com.

Dr. Geer will be presenting his paper at RSA Conference 2004 at the Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco on Wednesday February 25th at 2PM.

The Perimeter Must Contract

Dr. Geer's first assertion is, "When the threat increases, the perimeters must contract." He states that for electronic business, openness drives value, simplicity increases effectiveness, dissemination improves scalability, and accountability expands relationships. Balancing that against Internet reality, where the goal of an attacker is to gain the credentials of an insider, the notion of a traditional perimeter must be completely reconsidered. With porous perimeters, insiders and outsiders are nearly indistinguishable. For those reasons, Dr. Geer contends that continued investments in information security technologies focused exclusively on perimeter protection are ineffective because they are obsolete.

Getting the problem statement right

Dr. Geer explains that organizations must rethink the problem statement with regards to protecting sensitive, regulated and proprietary business information. He recommends that the new problem statement should be as follows: "To protect individual objects of value individually or, more precisely, to contract the protection perimeter to individual data objects." This new approach allows security professionals to focus on protecting what's inside the company's virtual 'four walls,' as opposed to continued efforts to shore up the walls themselves, and recognizes that the notion of outside vs. inside is no longer a meaningful distinction.

Why now is the time for object-level protections

For many reasons, Dr. Geer asserts, traditional access control and authentication systems can not scale to meet the requirements of information tracking, management and control created by recent regulatory measures and evolving corporate governance standards. "Pushing access control too far ensures that the

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result is diseconomic, the only question is when,” states Geer. With new regulatory pressures leaving senior executives, and not security staff, to answer difficult questions as to the misuse and misappropriation of files by authorized users, the focus must shift to securing the objects themselves.

About Dr. Daniel E. Geer, Jr. ScD.

Dr. Geer is an entrepreneur, author, scientist, consultant, teacher, and architect. Currently he is vice president and chief scientist with Verdasy, Inc. and principal of Geer Risk Services, an independent risk management consulting firm. Most recently, he served as CTO with @stake. Previously, Dr. Geer ran the development arm of MIT's Project Athena, where Kerberos, the X Window System, and much of what is taken for granted in distributed computing were created.

For many years he has provided high-level strategy in all manners of digital security and in promising areas of security research to industry leaders. Dr. Geer has testified before Congress on multiple occasions and has served in formal advisory roles for the Federal Trade Commission, the National Science Foundation, the Treasury Department, the National Research Council, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Department of Defense, the National Institute of Justice, and the Institute for Information Infrastructure Protection. He is a widely noted author in scientific journals, the technology press, and has co-authored several books on risk management and information security.

About Verdasy

Verdasy, Inc. provides a new class of risk management solutions focused on the uncountered threat from authorized users, or insiders. Verdasy™ Digital Guardian™ allows organizations to easily detect, prevent and document incidents of loss and misuse of sensitive, regulated proprietary business information. Founded by executives with direct experience with the misuse of information assets by an authorized user, Verdasy has attracted avid customer interest in the financial services, biotechnology, media and entertainment, and manufacturing sectors. The company's "Trust, but Verify" approach has drawn industry experts in information security, cybercrime, and forensics to the management team and advisory board. For more information, visit www.verdasy.com

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