



# How Security can Change the Behavior of Other IT Groups (For the Better)

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# Overview

- A little about nCircle
- A lot about the experiences of two customers



- **nCircle's Focus...**

- **Enterprise-Class** for Large-scale Complex Enterprises
- **Agentless** Vulnerability and Risk Management
- **Agentless** Configuration Compliance Management

- **Enables...**

- 4,000 customers and 95+% retention rate
- Continuous reinvestment in product, support, research
  - World class research team: 14 engineers in N.America
  - Hold 4 patents, 5 pending
  - Industry best support team, 24x7 customer support



# Two Organizations, Same Story



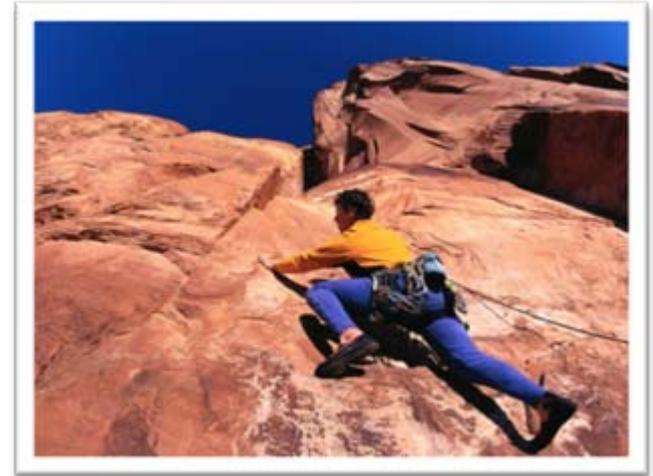
Large Financial Institution;  
Medium-sized Federal agency

- A daily awareness of security risk throughout all of IT
- Asset owners willingly remediate security problems every quarter
- Other IT groups consult security before deploying a new technology

How did they accomplish this?

Could you do this?

# Common IT Security “Soft” Challenges

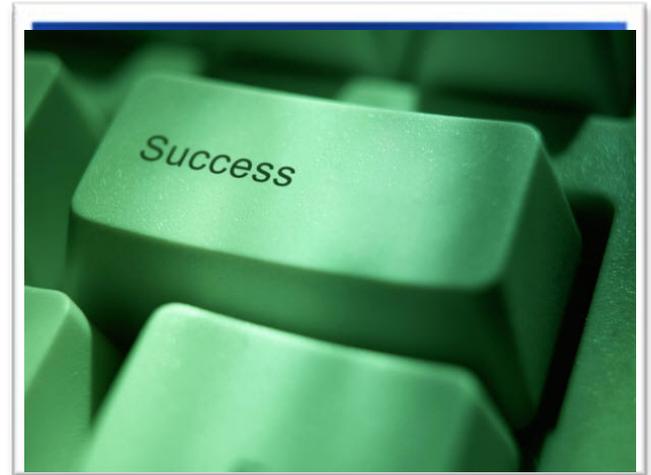


- Establishing trust
- Establishing common goals
- Achieving reactive results
- Creating a proactive process

➔ Five Requirements for Success

# 5 Requirements for Success

- Building trust
- Building executive level support
- Establishing a common language
- Deploying a personal communications medium, and
- Measuring accountability



“Your scanner knocked my system over!”

“You seriously expect me to give you my credentials?”

“This is going to slow down the network too much.”

## 1. Build Trust

- Begin before solution deployment
- Over-communicate
  - What you need to see and how often
  - Exactly when you’re going to be scanning what
  - What you can and cannot get without credentials
  - Share results, even if they’re raw
- Burn-in phase
  - Start slow and without credentials
  - Use dedicated account for credentials
  - Monitor network usage
  - Be careful about scan windows



## 2. Build Executive-Level Support

- It all really comes down to the tone at the top
- It's not “you either have it or you don't”
  - There are ways you can make this more likely to happen
- Quantify and measure your progress
- Give management an effective vehicle for making changes



### 3. Establish a Common Language

- Risk means different things to different groups
  - Remediation activities also require distinct approaches
- Single risk metric
  - Allows comparison between distinct domains
  - Gives management team an effective (and easy-to-understand) tool for causing change
  - Gives asset owners an effective tool for demonstrating progress
  - Is quantifiable
- Calculation algorithm ultimately un-important
- Breadth of data sources is critical



## 4. Deploy a Personal Communications Medium

– Permit deconstruction of risk along any conceivable business dimension

- Line of business, type of asset, applications, individual, geography, department, etc.

– Must have role-based access

- “My” risk score

– Self-service distribution

- Giving assets owners the flexibility to consume and act on data at their own pace and schedule



## 5. Measure Accountability

- All security issues ultimately refer back to humans
  - Cause and/or Solution
- Any behavior-changing solution must track responsiveness and accountability
  - Who is actively working to reduce risk and who is not?
  - How successful is a given remediation initiative?
  - What are the most serious, outstanding problems?
- The “who” component here can be departmental, geographic, functional, or individual



# So, Back to the Agency and the Bank

- They base their process on an integrated risk score from nCircle
  - Combining vulnerability, configuration, and/or file integrity data
- Global dashboard by department
  - Aggregate asset risk scores are published to everyone
- Quarterly bonuses depend, in part, on meeting risk score goals
  - There is constant upward environmental pressure on risk
- IT groups at both institutions now:
  - Monitor risk daily
  - Aggressively work to reduce risk scores
  - Consult with IT Security before making configuration changes



# Five Steps



1. Build Trust
2. Build Executive-Level Support
3. Establish a Common Language for Risk
4. Deploy a Personal Communications Medium
5. Measure Accountability

# Questions? Comments?

- Contact Information

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