

IT security should not be left to chance

RWT

Publisher baramundi software

Vulnerability Scanner at Reutlinger Wirtschaftstreuhand GmbH

The increasingly complex IT infrastructure and the growing number of endpoints to be managed, meant that Reutlinger Wirtschaftstreuhand GmbH was faced with the challenge to comprehensively secure their system landscape. By using baramundi's automated Vulnerability Scanner module, the IT managers can now check all endpoints for vulnerabilities and insecure settings as well as automatically and quickly close any possible security holes.

Reutlinger Wirtschaftstreuhand GmbH (RWT) is divided into several companies at three locations in the areas of audit, tax and legal advice. Against this background, it is of crucial importance to the RWT Group that all business processes and in particular IT, meet the requirements of the German data protection laws and that sensitive data to be processed is protected in the best interests of the client and the company. The IT department manages more than 350 endpoints, of which 215 are laptops, often used outside the company. The goal is to securely manage all endpoints and to provide a continuous high level of protection.

The vicious cycle of software updates

Since 2001, the RWT Group has been using the baramundi software AG endpoint management solution to perform routine tasks such as inventory, operating system installation or software deployment. "This gave us a good overview of our IT landscape, but we were not sure whether any of our used software had vulnerabilities and if so, which ones," says Thomas Walter, Head of IT at the RWT Group when describing their initial situation. In addition, they were unable to apply the necessary updates and patches quickly. "Due to the large number of security updates that were regularly being provided by software vendors, we were faced with the challenge of applying the updates quickly. My colleagues had to do this manually, check every update and then apply it. Once done, they had to start all over again. Some colleagues did nothing but software updates," Thomas Walter recalls. The IT managers at the RWT Group were eager to put a stop to this vicious cycle. RWT therefore decided to purchase the baramundi Managed Software Module that creates deployment-ready software packages for updates and patches and thus promptly makes security-related patches available.

First Scan gives an initial overview

To obtain a better overview of existing vulnerabilities and also to be able to check the secure configuration of endpoints, Thomas

Walter decided, together with his colleagues, to employ the baramundi Vulnerability Scanner Module. First off, Thomas Walter and his team ran a vulnerability scan. For this the baramundi solution refers to the constantly updated databases of recognized security organizations and checks over 20,000 rules on every endpoint. At the same time, the RWT Group checked if the settings of the operating system environment met the requirements of applicable safety standards.

The IT managers at the RWT Group were amazed by the results of the baramundi Vulnerability Scanner and the regulatory compliance of the configuration. The actual analysis showed that the systems had serious security shortcomings. As it turned out, the main reasons for this were the time lags in the deployment of necessary patches and the large number of partly outdated applications.

Overview provides security

The dashboard of the Vulnerability Scanner from baramundi provides the administrator with an overview of the current security situation. The view shows, among other things, any breaches of configuration rules, devices representing the highest security risk, or software that has the highest number of vulnerabilities. In addition, IT Managers can call up detailed information about possible threats to individual endpoints and receive action recommendations on how to deal with any vulnerabilities in terms of the compliance guidelines. "With the baramundi solution we can automatically apply all relevant patches for Microsoft products and software from third parties and we immediately receive a notice if it was successful. The integration, the single interface and the resulting time savings are, in my opinion, the main benefits of baramundi's Vulnerability Scanner," says Thomas Walter.

Selecting an integrated system

Theoretically, the RWT Group could have implemented Vulnerability Scanner with other software solutions. For the IT manager of the RWT Group, Thomas Walter, these stand-alone solutions were not, however, an alternative as they were unable to produce meaningful and combining report, hazard and patch dependencies. "The difficulty with the use of a stand-alone solution is that a particular endpoint vulnerability may have to be detected and patched with different solutions. The effort involved in creating the corresponding external programming, ensuring that these mechanisms function with different applications, would have been

much too complex. As an IT manager, the simplicity and ultimately the time savings are key factors for me. With baramundi I can with relative ease create meaningful reports, regardless of whether it concerns patches or managed software, to establish whether a potential risk is there or not," is how Thomas Walter explains his decision to select an integrated system.

Continuous security efforts pay off

Thomas Walter and his team now run weekly vulnerability scans. If any vulnerabilities are detected, patches are immediately applied via the baramundi solution. In addition, configuration scans using the baramundi Vulnerability Scanner are run regularly to ensure the necessary security here too. Through defined processes, by setting up password guidelines the IT department of the RWT Group was able to reach an even greater level of security. It is important to Thomas Walter that these processes run in the background: "The clear requirement of our company is that users are not prevented from working - we are always there, but invisible. With the Vulnerability Scanner from baramundi we can manage our systems in terms of our corporate philosophy in a more secure, flexible and above all successful manner."

Raising employee awareness

Realizing that working with a PC is associated with a high risk potential has become clearer to the employees at the RWT Group. In some cases, however, security must give way to user comfort. "Security should never affect the actual work of users and lead to unnecessary time wasting. Usability has to be a clear focus. We do try, however, to make employees more aware of the risks and the importance of IT security. A professional security concept which is further enhanced with the Vulnerability Scanner from baramundi, is crucial for us," says IT Manager Thomas Walter in summary.

Great Results

The decision to select the Vulnerability Scanner Module from baramundi was the right choice for the RWT Group: "This German software, the baramundi solution, meets exactly the requirements of German data protection, which is a key factor for us. The implementation also went smoothly and the Vulnerability Scanner was readily enabled with just a license key," says Thomas Walter in summary. In particular he praises the support that was provided: "Customer Service at baramundi is superb. In my experience, I don't know any other software manufacturer which provides comparable customer service to baramundi."

Company profile baramundi

baramundi provides its customers with efficient and secure cross-platform management for their on and off the network computers and mobile devices. Based on over 20 years of experience in the endpoint management space, organizations of all verticals and sizes value the quality and sophistication of baramundi's German engineered line of products.

baramundi is a leading innovator in the field of endpoint management, and has pioneered many exciting new technologies over time. During the development of its products, the baramundi team utilized cutting-edge technologies, focusing on high levels of reliability, unmatched usability, and of course on the customers' needs. baramundi's prime objective is to provide well thought out, flexible and yet easy to use solutions, taking complexities out of the ITs daily struggles for security, transparency and high levels of automation for the diverse landscape of servers, networks and end user devices.

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