The Case for Virtual Patching
Reducing the Risk of Database and Application Vulnerabilities

In comparison to traditional vendor patching, virtual patching can be a highly effective strategy for addressing both the likelihood and business impact aspects of security-related risk. Here’s why.

PROBLEMS WITH VENDOR PATCHING

In over 12 months, a $1B EM company with 100 instances - vendor patching is found to be:

- 440 hours of disruption is likely (median)
- 440 vendor patches are required (median)
- Inconvenient
- Most organizations do not have the time and resources to apply vendor patches in a timely manner
- Plus vendors may no longer provide patches for older systems, OEMs or for outsourced code
- Complex
- Time Consuming
- Not Consistent
- Lack of visibility into attacks allows further opportunities for attacks

VIRTUAL PATCHING REDUCES THE BUSINESS IMPACTS OF RISK

Vendor Patch:

- Compared to virtual patching, vendor patches result in:
  - Comparable or lower
  - Substantially Eliminated
  - Substantially Eliminated

Virtual Patch:

- window of vulnerability is drastically reduced with virtual patching
- Costly (the patching process itself & productivity loss in incurred system outages is costly)

VIRTUAL PATCHING REDUCES THE LIKELIHOOD OF RISK

Virtual Patching is:

- Simple
- Efficient
- Convenient

CONTINUOUS SECURITY PROTECTION VS. VENDOR PATCHING

Virtual Patching:

- M - Medium Risk
- L - Low Risk
- VH - Very High Risk
- H - High Risk

Vendor Patch:

- M - Medium Risk
- H - High Risk
- VH - Very High Risk
- L - Low Risk

We can easily agree that our objective is to manage the risk of enterprise database and application vulnerabilities to an acceptable level. We just need to think more broadly about how best to achieve that objective - as in the case for Virtual Patching.

To learn more,

Read the Full Report

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