Cyber Security Wake-Up Call: What's Putting Your Organization at Risk?

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Bill Walter is a partner in Gross Mendelsohn's Technology Solutions Group. With 25 years of experience, Bill helps organizations implement cyber security best practices to protect sensitive data and avoid cyberattacks.

About Gross Mendelsohn

- Provides accounting software, networking solutions and cyber security consulting services for businesses

- More than 25 years of experience providing realistic and honest guidance to various industries

- Firm established in 1960

- Technology division in existence since the 1990s

- Led by CPAs and seasoned technology professionals

About Gross Mendelsohn

- NetSuite Authorized Solution Provider as well as Microsoft Gold Cloud Solution Provider

- Independent view—we work with multiple products

- Can tap into the tax, accounting and investment resources available within Gross Mendelsohn

- Pride ourselves on providing outstanding client service

History of Cyber

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History of Cyber

- Original cyber attackers were in it for notoriety

- Attacks went from a nuisance to monetization

History of Cyber

- Going back to 2011, Sony had a major attack

- Attackers were in Sony's systems for a year before they announced themselves

History of Cyber

- Beginning of ransomware
- Fully commercialized ransomware

What's Happening Today?

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LastPass Breach

- Attacker obtained access to a senior engineer's home office computer

- Computer had access to data that only 4 people in the world had

- Avoiding exposure to this level of breach while using a third-party service

MailChimp Attack

- Threat actors stole credentials using social engineering to attack employees and contractors

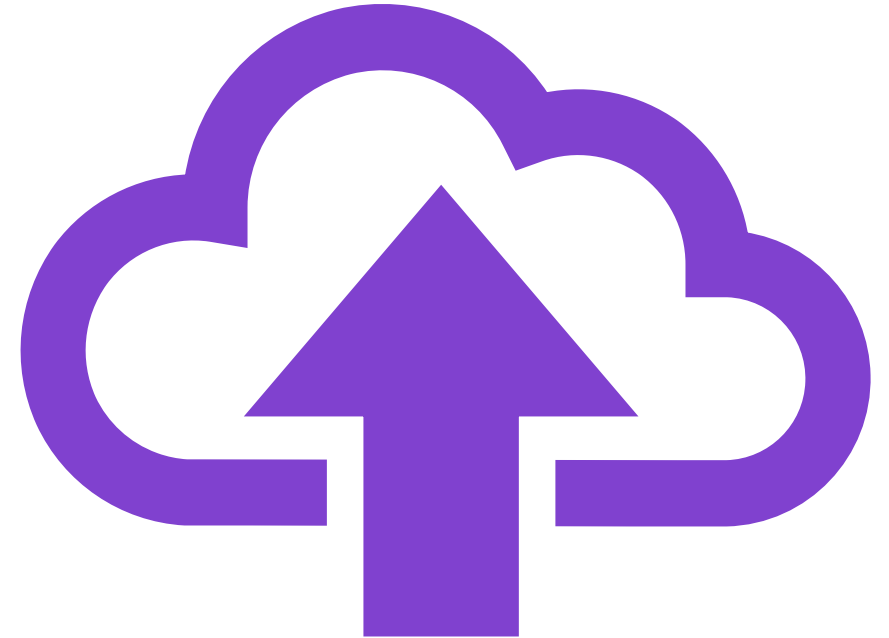- Were able to obtain access to multiple accounts and an internal support tool
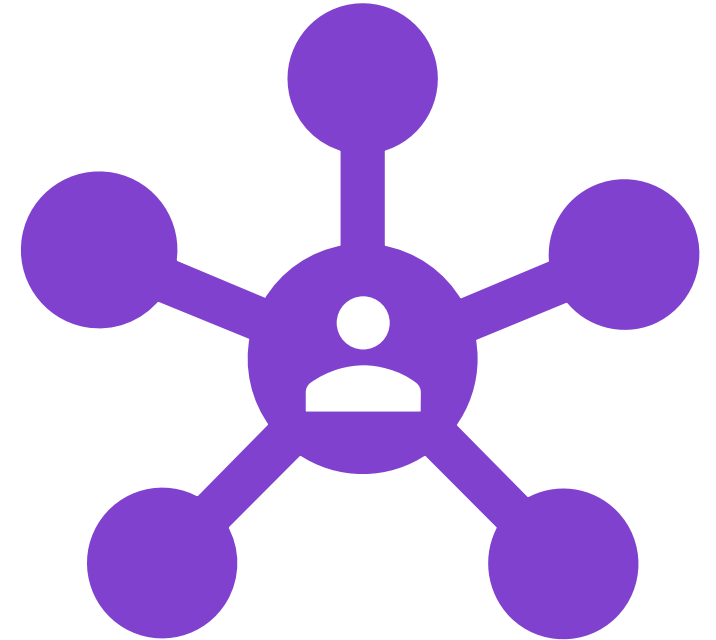
Microsoft Vulnerability

- Setting up cloud-based systems is easy, but a lack of knowledge can cost you

- Companies of all sizes received surprises in their monthly cloud service invoices

- Default SKUs were more expensive than the ones they needed

Microsoft Vulnerability

- Many virtual servers assign a public IP to a new machine

- Public facing IP can be enabled for remote access

- System can be left open to the internet using unsecure remote desktop protocol

Social Engineering

Social Engineering

- OSINT – Open Source Intelligence
- Utilizing data the user unwittingly puts out in the open

Technology applies to every division of your organization.

Prioritizing IT

Protecting your organization must include an IT resource

Focus on prioritizing who should be trained and protected

Adding layers of protection and training saves costs

Where should you focus your attention?

Security Awareness Training

Tell each user:

- What to expect

- What to do with the unexpected

And…

- Verify they understand

Security is Best Addressed in Layers

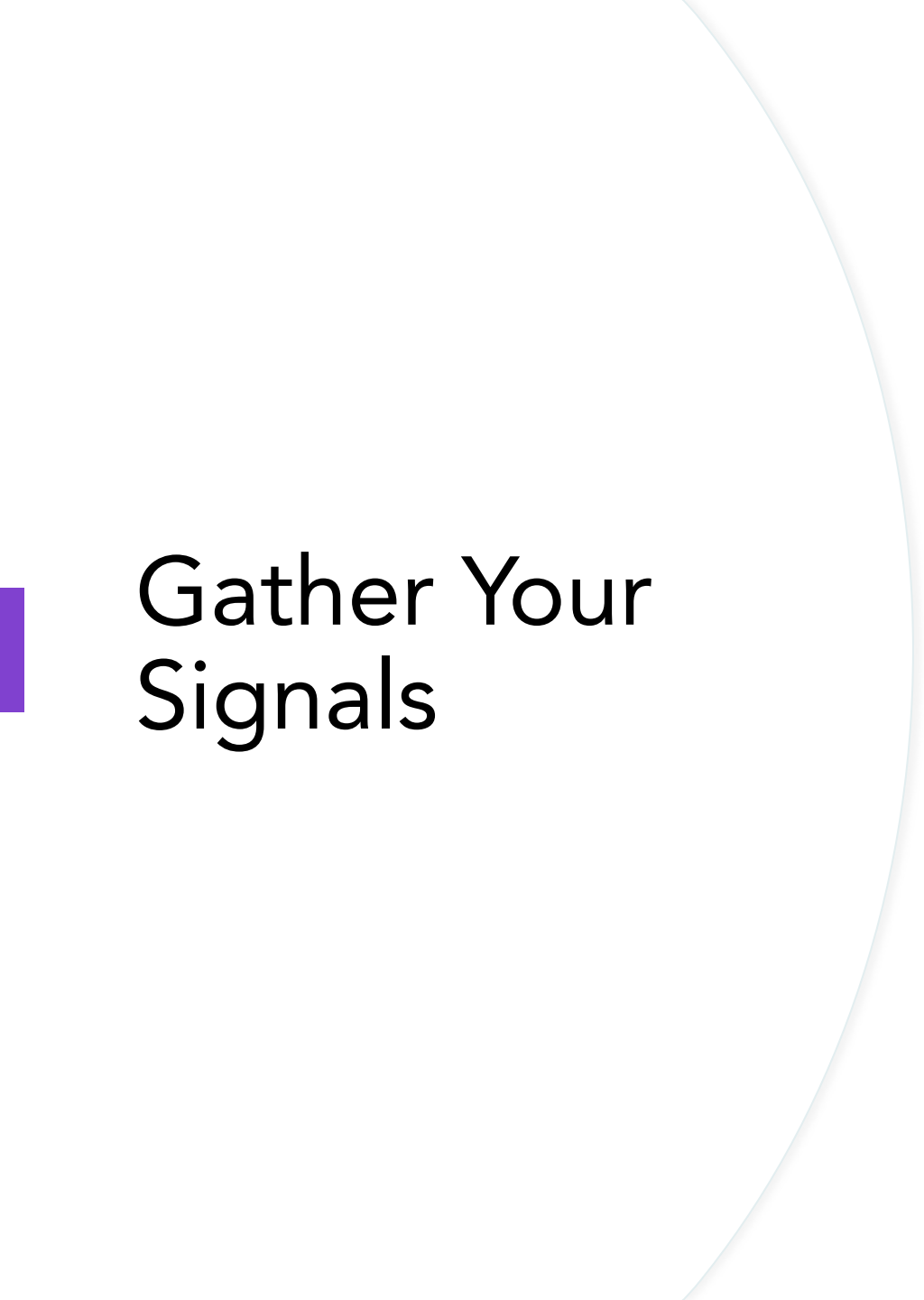Understand your most valuable systems and sensitive information

Policy of least privilege

Zero trust

Gather Your Signals

- You have the right firewall, endpoint protection, mail services…
- Do you have someone watching each item 24x7?

Follow a Framework

- Set some guidelines

- Be proactive

- Update and verify

What's Next?

Scan the QR code
to schedule your
risk assessment

https://technology.gma-cpa.com/cyber-security-risk-assessment

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