The Uncategorized & Risky Web – Critical Attack Vectors

IT security teams experience a constant barrage of attacks trying to penetrate their defenses and steal their data. According to Symantec’s Internet Security Threat Report, over 90% of these cyber attacks originate from the web and email. Cybercriminals leverage a variety of malware and social engineering tactics to dupe employees into infecting their devices and networks with malware, often by luring them to malicious websites.

Millions of new internet hosts – domains, sub-domains, IP addresses – are born every day. The vast majority of these exist for less than 24-hours, coming up and down quickly. Analysis reveals that while the majority of these hosts have valid business purposes, many of them are tools for hackers. These sites, valid and malicious, are not categorized and analyzed for risk effectively by web filtering and threat intelligence services because they have no meaningful reputational history. Add to this websites that are categorized and have a potentially unsafe risk profile, and security professionals have a real challenge on their hands.

Some enterprises set policies that completely block sites that cannot be categorized or are assessed to have a potentially unsafe risk level. This typically results in over-blocking their employee’s web use since valid sites get caught up in these types of policy rules. Others may choose to roll the dice and permit access to these types of sites in order to not impede their employee’s ability to perform their business activities, but this opens the organization up to undo risk. This risk is magnified in the case of privileged users, who are prized targets for cybercriminals because of the significant access rights and sensitive data typically found on their machines.

Web Isolation: Expand Web Access, Protect Privileged Users and Combat Phishing Attacks

Web isolation solves the challenge of providing secured access to the uncategorized and potentially risky web. Symantec’s acquisition of Fireglass brings the market’s leading web isolation solution into Symantec’s enterprise security portfolio. By creating a secure execution environment between users and the web, and sending
only a safe visual stream to users’ browsers, web isolation helps eliminate web-borne threats from ever reaching their devices.

Combining web isolation with Symantec ProxySG, ASG and VSWG products provides an isolation layer to protect users in real-time from threats targeting them from uncategorized sites or URLs with potentially unsafe risk profiles.

Enterprises can also use isolation to provide enhanced security for privileged users who have unique access to sensitive data and critical systems. Policies can be configured to send all web traffic from these users through an isolation path, which can protect them from web-based threats.

Additionally, Symantec Web Isolation can combat phishing attacks by making email links to malicious websites harmless. These sites, when isolated, cannot deliver their malware, ransomware, and other advanced threats to the email recipient’s machines. Symantec Web Isolation can also prevent users from submitting corporate credentials and other sensitive information to these sites by rendering them in read-only mode.

Symantec’s patented Transparent Clientless Rendering (TCR) technology provides a seamless user experience through the native browser, indistinguishable from browsing directly to the web. Symantec Web Isolation does not require any endpoint or plug-in installation and supports any OS, device and browser, which allows for enterprise-scale deployments.

Symantec technology can handle web resources remotely, eliminating the need to send exploitable web content to the browser. Offered as a managed cloud service, on-premise virtual appliance, or as a hybrid model, Web Isolation easily integrates with existing Symantec ProxySG, ASG and VSWG deployments. Policies can be configured in Symantec proxies to send traffic from uncategorized sites and sites with potentially unsafe risk profiles down a Web Isolation path, allowing users access to these sites while helping to ensure the enterprise is protected from any threats these sites pose to the business.

The addition of Web Isolation to Symantec’s Secure Web Gateways maximizes business and user productivity with secure, unrestricted web access to uncategorized and potentially risky websites while minimizing operational overhead and complexity related to managing web access policies, support tickets, security alerts and forensic investigations.

**About Symantec**

Symantec Corporation (NASDAQ: SYMC), the world’s leading cyber security company, helps businesses, governments and people secure their most important data wherever it lives. Organizations across the world look to Symantec for strategic, integrated solutions to defend against sophisticated attacks across endpoints, cloud and infrastructure. Likewise, a global community of more than 50 million people and families rely on Symantec’s Norton suite of products for protection at home and across all of their devices. Symantec operates one of the world’s largest civilian cyber intelligence networks, allowing it to see and protect against the most advanced threats. For additional information, please visit www.symantec.com or connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.