

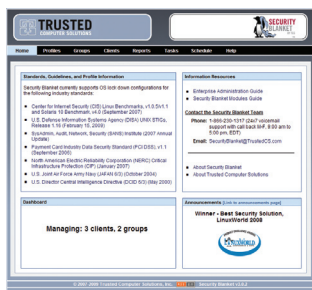
Today's tools can assist organizations needing to document, assess, and report on compliance relating to enterprise policy enforcement, says **Michael Lipinski**.

Policy management is a challenge for most organizations. It's a formidable duty to periodically review configurations, vulnerabilities, patches, servers, users, network and security rules. Now, imagine that these tasks must be performed in real time, or near real time, to validate the enterprise

security posture as it relates to corporate policy. Most corporate governance statements, compliance requirements and various regulatory bodies require us to do this. Fortunately, there are tools to help address this challenge. In this month's review, we are looking at policy management solutions.

These products provide the tools for managing, enforcing, auditing and reporting on various security and network system configurations and patch levels. For this review, we looked for products used to enforce configuration policies of devices in an enterprise.

Security Blanket Enterprise v3.1



Vendor Trusted Computer Solutions

Price \$4,500 (admin. console license); \$300 (client license)

Contact www.trustedcs.com

Security Blanket Enterprise Edition v3.1 provides an organization with the ability to manage the secure configuration of servers throughout the enterprise and ensure that the configurations consistently meet industry standards or customized security policies.

Security Blanket is a system-hardening tool for Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) v4 and 5, and Centos v4 and 5. It enables users to periodically check a system's state of security and apply changes based on security policy requirements.

Security Blanket is an agent-based solution. Agents are small in size

and communicate with the server using TLS (transport layer security) with AES 256-bit encryption. PKI is used for the agent authentication, making this a very secure agent to host communication.

The user interface is set up like a dashboard. It is easy to use and follow. The user interface makes it very easy to manage Linux devices, even if operators don't possess strong Linux skills. There are numerous pre-defined profiles available for compliance management, auditing and reporting.

The baseline, auditing and policy administration features are all very good and easy to use. The agent must be polled, however, so this tool is not a real-time reporting solution. Scans can be scheduled at any interval and can be performed at low peak times so as not to add latency to the network or device. Servers or devices can be grouped to make the management and deployment of policies much easier in very large and distributed environments.

Assessment, baseline and logging reports help IT managers and security auditors assess compliance against security policies and moni-

tor compliance against change. Security Blanket scans the OS and then automatically configures the OS to a state of compliance based on the profile. We liked the feature that allowed us to compare any two servers or groups of servers, right down to file attributes.

We found this to be a very easy-to-use solution for the amount of functionality it delivered.



Great lockdown, reporting, auditing and system roll-back capabilities; 32- and 64-bit OS support.

– Michael Lipinski

SC MAGAZINE RATING	
Features	★★★★☆
Ease of use	★★★★☆
Performance	★★★★★
Documentation	★★★★★
Support	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★☆
OVERALL RATING	★★★★☆
Strengths	Great lockdown, reporting, auditing and system roll-back capabilities; 32- and 64-bit OS support.
Weaknesses	Supports Red Hat Enterprise and Centos only.
Verdict	Provides a very nice set of tools for locking down Linux endpoints.



SECURITY BLANKET

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