Cybersecurity dashboard

Cuadro de mando de ciberseguridad

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Abstract

The main objective of the present article is to report results gathered from an interactive dashboard application, which main objective is to apply new software and IT technologies to collect information by using several APIS in order to get information and centralize it, then it can be visualized in an interactive dashboard. The methodology used in this project was based mainly by using an specialized software for data analysis which offers an structured an ordered information of data, besides this software also displays alarms that are found in the organization's web pages that are located in cloud services and integrated through Microsoft Azure. In order to weave the different possible attacks which each individual platform could detect such as: malware, authentication bypass, phishing on e-mails, targeted attacks to the companie's virtual machines, malicious ip, etc. The contribution of this project is the integration of several local platforms or those ones located in cloud services serving to SME (Small and medium enterprises) and which are distributed in several branches, either domestic or abroad, then after the interactive dashboard would show live alerts in order to make the correct decisions concerned to cybersecurity issues.

Interactive dashboard, Cybersecurity, Azure

Resumen

El presente trabajo presenta los resultados obtenidos de la aplicación del dashboard interactivo. El cual tiene como objetivo aplicar un nuevo software y tecnologías para la recolección de la información a través de varias API para centralizar la información y poder visualizarla en un tablero interactivo. La metodología de desarrollo se basó principalmente con un software especializado para el análisis de datos, que ofrece una visualización ordenada y estructurada de los datos y alertas encontradas en varios portales de la organización localizados en la nube e integrados a través de Microsoft Azure, para entrelazar los diversos posibles ataques que cada plataforma de manera individual pueda detectar como malware detectado, inicio de sesión desconocidos por parte de los usuarios, phishing en los correos, ataques a máquinas virtuales de la compañía, IP maliciosas, etc. La contribución de este proyecto es la integración de diversas plataformas locales o en la nube que se tienen en muchas pymes, distribuidas en varias sucursales, ya sea en el país o en el extranjero y se puede tener la información y las alertas de manera inmediata para la toma de decisiones relacionadas con la ciberseguridad.

Pizarrón interactivo, Ciberseguridad, Azure

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Introduction

One of the purpose of new technologies is to give several benefits to society and to final users; it has been accomplished to some extent. New technologies have also created new attractive markets with great growing capabilities. However those capabilities come together with risks almost inherently, therefore not only do we get opportunities but also new threats. (KIPPEO, 2020).

Nowadays many companies undergo cyberattacks and these attacks remain growing, this according to the opinion of more than 750 experts and worldwide decision makers. The 76.1% of these experts indicate that from 2020 on cyberattacks will grow and will be focused to infrastructure, 75 % of these experts also indicate that cyberattacks specialized in getting money and valuable information assets will increase.

According to a report, cyberattacks are in 7th position of a lists of main risks that we will face worldwide in 2020 these risks are also in the 8th position in the level of impact (Blog Smartekh, 2018).

Cybersecurity is the area of informatics that protects IT infrastructure as well as, stored or moving information. In order to protect information cybersecurity uses standards, rules, protocols, methodologies, tools and laws to minimize risks related to infrastructure or information.

According to Kaspersky Lab y B2B International (See Figure 1), the average cost of a cybersecurity incident in Latin America continues rising, it is interesting to mention that not only does the average cost increase within companies but also by third parties. Therefore, companies must apply cibersecurity measures to their infrastructures and companies must know how partners deal with cibersecurity issues.

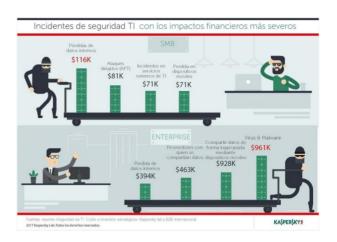


Figure 1 Cibersecurity incidents in 2017

Source: Kaspersky

Nowadays Information is considered as one of the most important assets in an organization and information security as well, informatics security must protect the integrity, confidentiality and availability of information.

Being successful when protecting the 3 basic principles of information, security allows companies to ensure business continuity.

However, the most important asset is corporate reputation. Companies that do not know how manage a cybersecurity incident specially costumers communications and shareholders will undergo a damage in their reputation which is extremely difficult to deal with and recover. A Forbes Insight report indicates that 46% of organizations had already suffered a damage in their reputation and in the value of their brands as a result of an attack. (Sofistic Cybersecurity, 2019).

Informatics security encompasses software (databases, metadata, files), hardware and everything that organizations values and represents risks, if third parties get confidential information then it becomes a privileged information then it could be used against organizations, therefore informatics security is a very important area that must be taken into account by organization to keep safe critical information.

Another topic to consider is data analysis to improve important data visualization for companies; data visualization examines a set of data to make conclusions so that companies can make the best decisions or just to get more information about several topics.

With the development of internet and use of mobile devices in productivity today there is a term used mainly by youngsters called BYOD (Bring your own device) with BYOD young people in an organization prefer to use mobile devices for productivity at work. There are several companies such as Blackberry, Miradore etc, that have already created services and dashboards in order to manage enterprise management mobility (EMM) and BYOD management, **EMM** services manage applications, data, real time monitoring of users sessions. resources. monitoring. network geolocating, remote destruction of mobile monitoring, devices, security incidents geolocation of stolen equipment, users blocking, users location etc.

EMM services are and excellent tool to protect integrity, confidentiality and availability in information in organizations.

Problem

In most of the SME (Small and medium enterprises) information related to cybersecurity obtained from different sources within the companies is decentralized, that information does not have a proper format, design, or a correct interaction for users, hence it is not possible display information of all areas or branches when a cyberattack occurs.

Justification

By having an interactive cybersecurity dashboard for real time cybersecurity incidents it concentrates information with tailored filters and requested reports for each IT department in every branch, it is also very possible to reduce or eliminate with high precision cyberattacks performed within the organization.

Methodology

Stage methodology proposal with 5 stages:

Stage 1, Licensed Software analysis owned by the company which is: Power BI,Tableau and QlickView

Stage 2, tools comparison and learning curve. It was found that either Tableau or Power BI allows to perform several advanced visualizations which let take the best of data.

It was also found that Tableau is oriented to make tailored analysis performing into a deeper level, whereas Power BI generates powerful dashboards from an executive insight this is due to its great level of integration and compatibility.

A Power BI great feature is that that allows import visualizations that are generated from other users who use the platform. That visualization may be re-used or be adapted into a new report that is being generated.

Stage 3, Using Azure API to chart

Stage 4, Selecting a tool to import data in order to integrate all the dashboard tools, for this case JSON was selected due to its ease of functionality and security.

Stage 5, Connecting API with data and JSON integration tools

Development

In order to develop the present project the corresponding cybersecurity topics were applied, to create a specialized dashboard.

Very specific technologies were also used to centralize the information related to cybersecurity, there were also used analysis tools to solve cyberattacks situations that occur within the company and then to come up with immediate solutions to security incidents

In figure 2 we can see the integration of risk events.

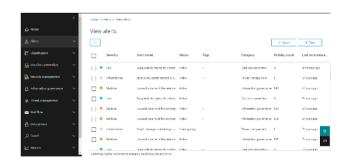


Figure 2 Visualization of alerts in the application Microsoft Azure Identity Protection web page *Source: own elaboration*

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Figure 3 Screen shot from the Application showing charts Microsoft Azure Identity Protection web page *Source: own elaboration*

The figure 3, shows the most common cyberattacks with vulnerability rates in real time, where as figure 4 shows a report about users at risk, figure 4 also shows location in facilities and departments, figure 5 shows a report of types of attacks with date and time.



Figure 4 Screen shot from the application showing a risk users report from Microsoft Azure Identity Protection web pages

Source: Own elaboration



Figure 5 Screen shot from the application showing types of attacks. Microsoft Azure Identity Protection web pages *Source: own elaboration*

The company in which this study was applied counts with 4 industrial plants, 200 employees each one, distributed in the Mexican area called the Bajio, 100 employees have access to Microsoft Azure platform, within the same platform there can be found several sections that gather different types of information.

Therefore in the moment in which the person in charge of cybersecurity requires to check any issue related to cybersecurity events has to deal with the problem of accessing an specific section of the platform to get any specific information and then again to visit another section to get that specific information about the same problem once again. A tool was integrated in Azure to make the charts, in the charts it can be displayed data and information obtained from cyberattacks in real time.

With that API it is possible to visualize the information mentioned before in any web browser.

In order to achieve the visualization in any browser the methods HTTP, GET, POST, PUT, DELETE were used. The output format that is obtained only JSON hence, manipulation, storing and processing of information does not require previous treatment for its analysis. See Figure 6 to check the code that was used.

```
"id": "Zadab5311d27F965a9e8a2404e765955bd37a2c0726abbff4868080f7977c537",

"azureTenantId": "f29ce9bd-a312-4e1e-8efe-ba51acfd8426",

"azureSubscriptionId": null,

"iask5core": null,

"assignedTo": null,

"assignedTo": null,

"closedDateTime": null,

"coments": [],

"confidence": null,

"createdDateTime": "2021-07-21T13:47:42.04961622",

"description": "Sign-in with properties we have not seen recently for the given user",

"detectionIds": [],

"eventDateTime": "2021-07-21T13:47:42.04961622",

"feedback": null,

"incidentIds": [],

"lasttventDateTime": "021-07-21T13:50:13.72462352",

"recommendedActions": [],

"severity": 'low,

"sourcetaterials": [],

"severity": 'low,

"sourcetaterials": [],

"status": 'newAlert",

"title': "unfamiliar sign-in properties",
```

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} Figure 6 & reference code to an structured JSON o in \\ Microsoft Graph Explorer \\ \end{tabular}$

Source: own creation

The methods that were mentioned before make a search of metadata to get an update of the electronic dashboard by using recent data.

In order to review every classified vulnerability it is necessary to make an effective risk analysis, the first step is to identify all the assets within the organization. Those assets include every resource that is used to manage and exchange information within the organization, such as software, hardware, communication devices, digital and analog documents, even human resources must be considered.

Risk analysis requires creating detailed reports about cybersecurity and the several measures applied in the organization. Those reports let us measure the level of success that the organization is undergoing when preventing and mitigating cybersecurity incidents, reports also let us detect weakness or errors that require applying corrective measures.

Talking about these measures, we can stand out the next ones.

- Security software and firewalls installation.
- Automated security systems in the cloud and disaster recovery plans implementation.
- Implementation of security protocols to reinforce security in passwords.
- Implementation and review users roles and policies for minimum privilege.
- Implementation of mirror servers to ensure high availability in the systems, use of alternative systems.

In this study case the electronic dashboard was developed considering the ISO 27001:2015 norm: Information Security Management Systems (ISMS) it is an international norm that allows confidentiality, integrity and availability in data and in information and also in systems that process confidential or sensitive information. Any organization in the world owns sensitive or confidential information that must be protected against cyberattacks that represent a risk or a threat. The information is the most important asset in an organization, one of the main objectives of the norm ISO 27001 is to helps us protect our information assets.

As a solution for the proposal a security dashboard was developed, in the section Security it can filter information related to security incidents as it can be seen in figures 2,3,4 and 5, there it can be shown filtered information in different categories, risk level, status, information destination, security actions and indicators.

For this study case we focused in categories, status and risk level in which cyberattacks can be identified by their filters and policies that are used to classify a type of attack occurring, which office is being affected, users involved or affected in the attack and additional information that is integrated within the cybersecurity dashboard.

In order to visualize information or online reports on the security dashboard 3 compatibles solutions were analyzed, respecting the main objective of the application: Power BI, Tableau and QlikView. It was found that either Tableau or Power BI allows different advanced visualizations and take the best of data and information.

It was also identified that Tableau is oriented for tailored and deeper data analysis, in the other hand with Power BI it is possible to generate or create more powerful dashboards for executive use it is due to its great integration level and compatibility.

One advantage when using Power BI is that one that allows importing visualizations from other users in the platform, and they (visualizations) can be reused or be adapted in a new report that is being generated.

Once a tool was defined the connection was made by using the exclusively developed API to work with Microsoft Graph Security.

The APPI mentioned before collects information from different platforms and from user's services such as e-mails, anti-viruses, policies for malware detection. The APPI gives the opportunity to the developers to create their own queries and also to generate reports from scratch, it also allows to know much deeper how the organization's infrastructure works, this information can be seen in figure 7.

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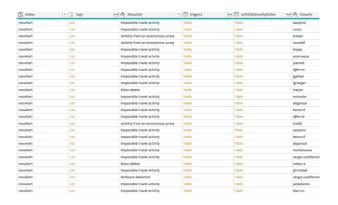


Figure 7 Screen shot that shows the process for information and data transformation by using Power BI *Source: Power BI application*

Power BI offers several types of connections that allow us to make designs, connections and reports for the electronic cybersecurity dashboard where, according to the assigned permissions users can access to the different levels of information

Once that required information in the dashboard was identified, different charts were chosen, also reports and filters, this according to information requirements, and validations from users in the dashboard for each possible cybersecurity issue.

The figure 5 shows the highest level with 22 recurrences and value of 5 as a minimum vulnerable value.

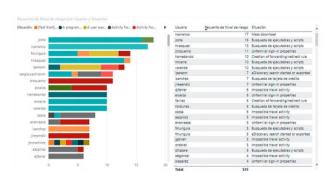


Figure 8 Screen shot of data transformation to charts by using Power BI

Source: Own elaboration

Results

Within the tests and results, it was concluded that the electronic dashboard includes new functions, charts, reports and information that was not found in the other sites. It gives an interactions to what we read, besides it also adds prioritization in an interactive way which allows personal in charge of cybersecurity to locate areas that must be attended and reinforce cybersecurity and mitigate or eliminate attacks that the organization is undergoing.

Besides some other benefits are included:

- Own interactive platform creation.
- Information and data centralization for better cybersecurity management.
- The use of new technologies to display critical information and to be able to interact with data and information that was not possible to visualize in the platforms that were mentioned before.
- In the dashboard more precise data is presented that can be used in future audits.
- The electronic dashboard also comes with options that let add more information origin points; it also lets to create an extra relation with information and data that can be used by the company and the people in charge of cybersecurity.
- Analysis and data management is more precise when using tools like the present dashboard.

Figure 9 shows the main screen with the different states of security levels in the organization, in which we can review users at risk separated by date, users, risk level and a description of the current situation. Here we can also check recent and unknown sessions, it helps us locate in which part of the world an unknown session was established.

The dashboard also shows in a chart the exact time the unknown session occurred so that we can see users at higher risk levels in the organization.



Figure 9 Dashboard screen shot at its final state *Source: own elaboration.*

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In figure 10 we can see the charts created due to the organizations' need in order to verify weekly and monthly information about cyberattacks that were detected in users, virtual machines, cloud storage, data bases and e-mail service and also being able to review in numbers each one of the situations at risk.



Figure 10 Dashboard screen shot at its final state *Source: Own elaboration*

In figure 11 we can see detailed reports for the different offices in the organization, these reports are used to carry out a correct cybersecurity incident management, according to the work areas, in order to get a feedback to each office depending on the risk level exposure.

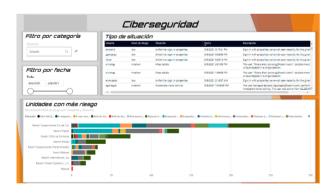


Figure 11 Screen shot with information per office *Source: own elaboration*

Conclusions

At the end of the development of the present project we conclude, that it contributed with new opportunities to create reports and also using the information and data that was never used for cybersecurity main objectives within the organization.

By having an electronic dashboard, the organization has total control over the different risks and cyber threats that occur day by day. The dashboard also lets us make a more detailed analysis of how cyberattacks occur and how to avoid them.

ISSN: 2410-3993 ECORFAN® All rights reserved. The electronic dashboard creates a new way to depict data through Power BI software. Data analysis is a very powerful tool that is currently being developed all together with new IT technologies.

Data analysis also helps the organization to better organize data and information in order to make better decisions. Converting data from the application into visual.

Turning data from the application into visual representations helps employees to describe concepts, discover areas of opportunity, explore options and to make the best decisions everything carried out in a persuasive way.

Virtual supports are necessary to help people make the best decisions.

Cybersecurity is a topic affects everybody in the same way either by having just an e-mail or by managing an entire web site with sensitive information.

It just a failure in the chain that can compromise our security systems, therefore organizations should always attend security information recommendations to avoid major problems.

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