Web Application Firewall project – planning and implementation

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Project review

What has happened so far

- Need identified; risks, vulnerabilities, known problems

- Environment reviewed; existing F5 platform, network layout, complexity, encryption

- Recommended that the F5 application firewall be purchased
  - G20

- Purchase made, Viprion equipment implemented end 2015

G20

- Griffith 'strongly supports' the 2014 G20

- Some G20 events were held at the GU Southbank campus

- Risk of breach of public facing services

- Cloud-based application firewall service selected to protect high-profile services

- CTO level authority to implement at high speed

G20 - outcomes

- Gave us good knowledge into the web services we offer and their profile

- 'dry run' of how to implement an application firewall

  - Consult, establish configuration for that service, test, turn on

Next steps

Staff resource

- Project identified that a resource would be required to care for the application firewall

- Funding sought for a resource, advertising shortly

Implementation

- Build dev/test/prod environments (with professional services assistance)

- Review web services catalog

- Schedule for implementation (consult, write configuration, test, production)

Take home lessons

Selection - Environment

- Review your environment:

  - Risks to be mitigated

  - Existing infrastructure

  - Complexity

  - Implementation location (cloud, border, core, -as-a-service, managed service)

Leverage the vendor/manufacturer

- Consult with your vendor and manufacturer!

    - (GU have a very good relationship with existing manufacturer, and with partner for delivery of Viprion equipment/services)

- Use professional services where possible (made our implementation significantly easier than going it alone)

Care and feeding

- Engage with the application owners/administrators/managers
    - Building the dev/test/prod environments
    - Make sure they know who to contact for problems
- ANY change to an application requires testing!

Thanks!

Questions?

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