Dark Web Scanning:

Understanding the Why and the How

Contents

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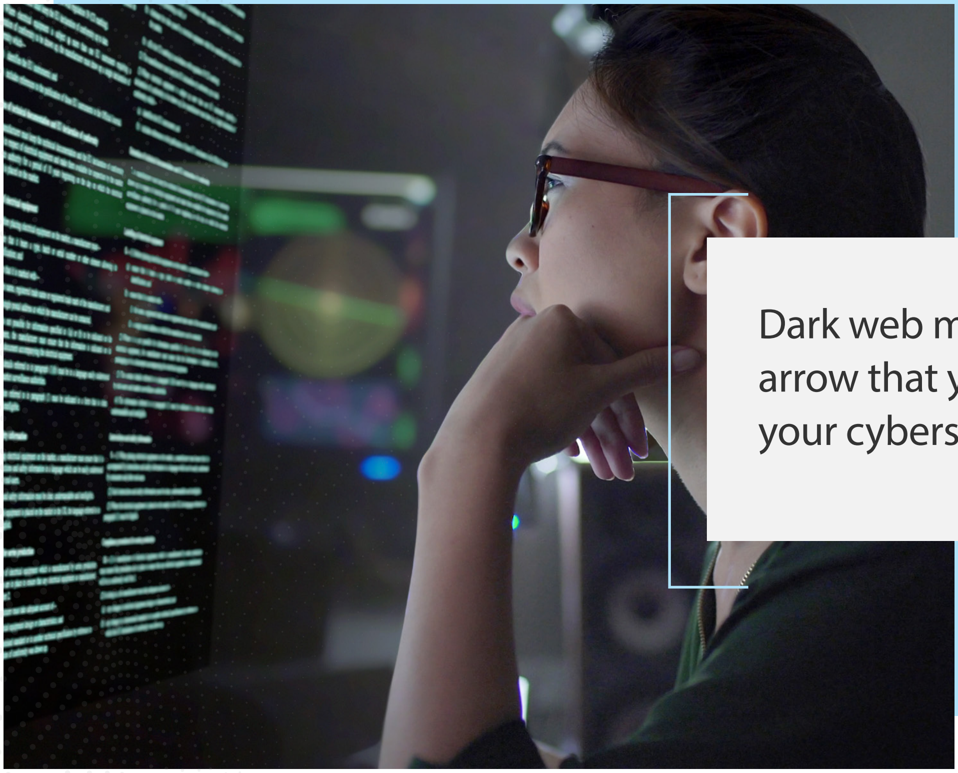
The Need for Dark Web Scanning

Dark web monitoring is emerging as a crucial element to a solid, advanced cybersecurity strategy. Unfortunately, many organizations are not aware of the dark web and its dangers. Others don't take it seriously, thinking it can't possibly be a threat to their organization. Don't let your business fall victim!



Dark web monitoring is another arrow that you should add to your cybersecurity quiver.

What You and Your Employees Don't Know Can Hurt You

Today's hackers are working smarter, not harder, and they have become increasingly adept at lucrative opportunities tied to the hostage of business email. Yet many companies aren't prioritizing security as an essential element to their business success. Take, for example, employee training. Many businesses don't realize their employees are one of their most significant security risks.

You've probably heard the stories of cyber criminals dumping thumb drives loaded with malicious hacker code in employee parking lots, waiting for someone to pick one up and plug it into a work laptop. Pretty clever, right? Unfortunately, research studies have found that more than 60% of people who find a thumb drive will do just that—potentially handing over network access to an enterprising hacker.

Research finds that most breaches are not initially detected and may not be discovered until several months after the initial attack. According to IBM's Cost of a Data Breach Report 2020, the average time to identify and contain a data breach is 280 days (approximately nine months). Often, breaches are only detected after it is discovered that compromised, sensitive information has been released or is for sale on the dark web. Does your organization have compromised information available for sale to hackers?

280 days

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Do You Have Employee Credentials on the Dark Web?

When conducting a risk assessment for identification of unknown security vulnerabilities and defensive gaps, a dark web scan can help further identify risk exposure and act as an early warning to potential dark web risks.

A dark web scan can also protect employee credentials. The scan can uncover any exposed employee credentials and allows you to set up ongoing monitoring so you will be notified of any future credential leaks.

There's No Better Time to Find Out

Many organizations are shocked and surprised when they see their employees' access information available for sale on the dark web. Whether you have a large enterprise or a small- to mid-sized business, be sure you aren't a target!

What to Do When Your Credentials Have Been Exposed

Running a dark web scan against an email domain can provide illuminating results. For example, one organization's email domain scan uncovered 30 compromised emails, including the business owner's bank account login credentials. Keep in mind, this is just one example. There have been instances where several hundred or even a few thousand compromised emails have been found.

Client Report

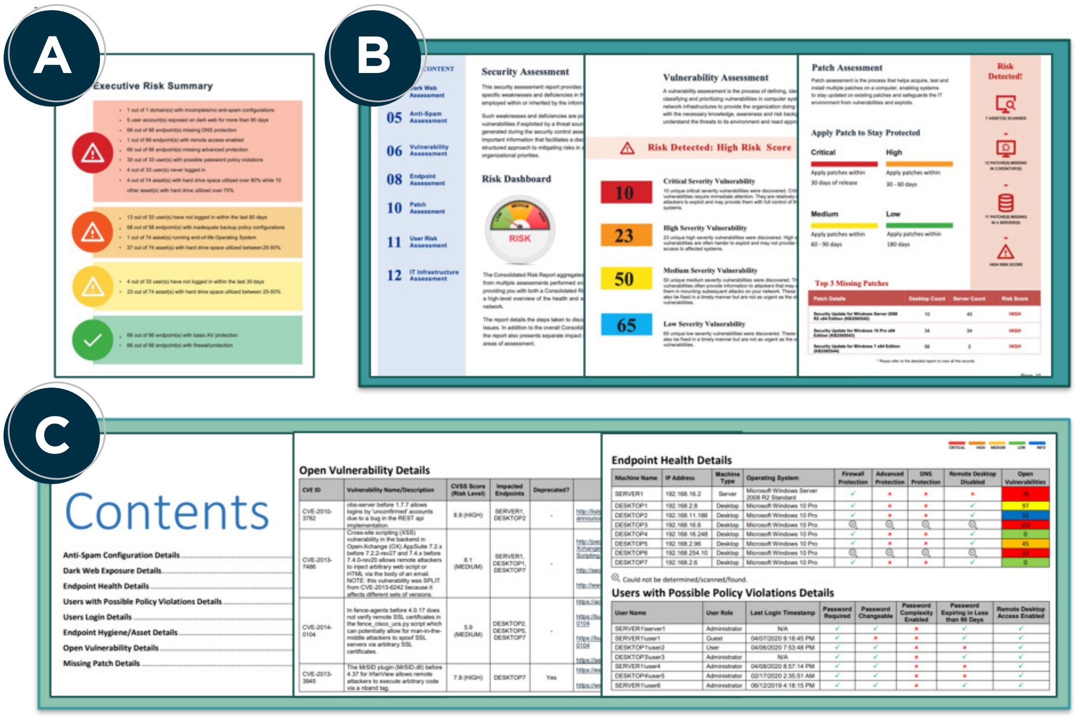
A. Risk Summary

B. Assessments

- Dark Web Assessment
- Anti-Spam Assessment
- Vulnerability Assessment
- Endpoint Assessment
- Patch Assessment
- User Risk Assessment
- IT Infrastructure Assessment

Partner Report

C. Details


A
Executive Risk Summary
B
Security Assessment
Risk Dashboard
Vulnerability Assessment
Risk Detected: High Risk Score
10
23
50
65
Patch Assessment
Apply Patch to Stay Protected
Top 3 Missing Patches
Risk Detected!
C
Contents
Anti-Spam Configuration Details
Dark Web Exposure Details
Endpoint Health Details
Users with Possible Policy Violations Details
Users Login Details
Endpoint Hygiene/Asset Details
Open Vulnerability Details
Missing Patch Details
Open Vulnerability Details
Endpoint Health Details
Users with Possible Policy Violations Details

Brush up on Password Best Practices

If your credentials have been exposed publicly, you can never use that password again. Once that password is part of a public list, especially one that is associated with your email address, you can be sure it will be used in a future attack. The risk is too great to even consider using it again, and any other account that uses the same password should be immediately changed as well. Similar passwords used with other accounts should be changed, too.

Cybercriminals will use your password in an attempt to gain access to other accounts like banking and social media. This is why business email addresses should NOT be used for non-business-related activities, and separate passwords should be used for each site or application you use. The results of a dark web scan will show if any of your employees may have used their business email for non-business reasons and had their credentials compromised, bringing unnecessary risk to your organization.

If you identify any of your users' credentials for sale on the dark web, take the necessary steps to remediate the situation and prioritize strengthening your security posture for the future. That includes training your users on their role in defense of the organization. While a clear dark web scan may provide peace of mind today, be sure not to develop a false sense of security. Instead, use the assessment to identify other potential vulnerabilities that require resolution.

Using a Dark Web Scan as an Early Warning Tool

Think of a dark web scan as a regular checkup with your doctor. You may feel fine, but medical tests could uncover underlying problems. A dark web scan is just like the routine tests your doctor orders. It's one more way to understand the strength of your current cyber defense. Additional tests, like a vulnerability scan, can further identify specific areas of weakness and recommend appropriate remediation.

Comprehensive Cybersecurity Resources

All it takes is one end user clicking on the wrong link to undo all your hard work. We have solutions to strengthen your security defense, including employee training, endpoint protection, vulnerability assessments and a fully staffed SOC. Contact us to learn more!

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