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AVOIDING DISASTER IN ONSITE INCIDENT RESPONSE PLANNING: A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

An effective security policy is a detrimental part of any organization's sustainability, and can mean the difference between success and failure for the organization should a disaster occur. The main components of the security policy are the incidence response plan and the disaster recovery plan. Many organizations, however, do not know how to go about incorporating these plans into their policies and standards. The workshop discusses best practices in gathering requirements for the development of Incident Response Planning, paying particular attention to issues that are unique in an online learning system. An actual organization in need of these plans was selected and participated in this study. Issues to discuss include physical walkthroughs of facilities, obtaining knowledge of the procedures and policies already in place at organizations, methods of interviewing key people in the organization, analyzing the organization's strengths and weaknesses as they relate to physical and logical security, and legal requirements that should be followed. With this information, the workshop will then demonstrate how to devise a comprehensive plan to assist an organization in meeting minimum-security standards through implementation of best practices as outlined by the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST).

Keywords

Disaster recovery, incident response, NIST, online learning

OUTLINE

Tolleson Lumber located in Perry, Georgia and Preston, Georgia, is a company that uses the mill process to create usable lumber from raw pine logs. Tolleson Lumber executives requested an evaluation to create an incident response and disaster recovery plan from Macon State College. The instructor and the project leader for this in-depth, deliverable product will present a panel discussion that will present the steps that the online course took to ensure both student and project success. Tolleson realized that there were issues with some of the disaster recovery and business continuity procedures that they currently had in place and needed a plan to revise them to insure the security and availability of the network and applications, as well as the safety of the mill. Key concerns will be discussed that include the ability to back-up the network to a virtual server hosted by a third party, the exploration of key systems in a non-intrusive and secure manner by the students that limited exposure to risk by the organization. Further issues to discuss include issues related to network infrastructure, backup and recovery procedures, critical systems and applications, password policies, redundancy with the sister office in Preston, sales and payroll procedures, mill operations and procedures, employee functions including time clock procedures, vacation time, and the hiring process, and overall network policy. Finally, attendees will be allowed to view an example case-study that was built off of this in-depth capstone project.

The panel will engage in a pedagogical question and answer session, after presentation of their findings and lessons learned. It is expected that instructors interested in methods development in online learning environments, security professionals, and educators would find the panel of equal interest.