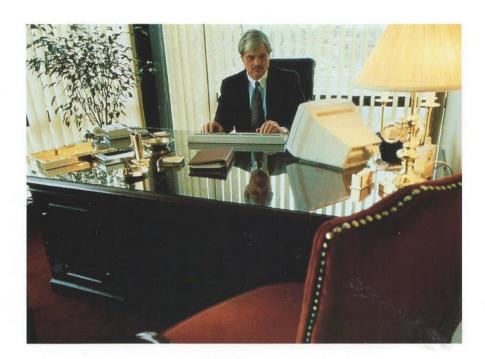# VMS Security Review Service

Assessing Your System Security

digital

Many organizations have invested heavily in computer systems in the last decade; for most, these systems have become an essential resource — storing and processing volumes of corporate data. Financial data; product and sales data; personnel information; design, engineering, and manufacturing data.

The security of this data, and of the systems storing it, is integral to the functioning of your organization. But how well are these systems and data protected? Does your organization have a computer security program? If so, is it appropriate to your business needs? If not, have you asked your MIS team to assess your current system security procedures and make recommendations for improvement?

If you're considering such an effort, you should look into Digital's VMS Security Review Service, which can help your MIS team evaluate your VAX/VMS security environment. This service provides a professional, third-party evaluation of system security procedures and offers recommendations for correcting any weaknesses.

Features and Benefits

Digital's VMS Security Review Service offers:

- An on-site or remote study of your current security procedures and controls by a trained Security Consultant from Digital's Security Expertise Center.

- Extensive on-line examination of your implementation of Digital's VAX/VMS security features, using tools developed by Digital for this purpose.

- A report containing specific recommendations for improving system security.

- Greater peace of mind for your system security manager, who knows that security controls being implemented have been recommended by a trained Security Consultant from Digital.

Computer Security: The Neglected Dimension

In many organizations, computer security is often neglected due to more immediate day-to-day problems. Concerns about computer security are relegated to the wish list.

But creating a formal security policy should be a high priority. The organization's data, systems, and software are invaluable; its day-to-day operations would be at risk if any of these resources were tampered with. The time for your MIS group to design a computer security program is now. And Digital's Security Review Service can strengthen their effort.

For your MIS team, the first step will be to assess just how much protection is needed for your systems and data. Then, current security controls and procedures should be evaluated to determine their appropriateness. Finally, recommendations for new procedures should be made and then implemented.

In many organizations, this process will show that in some areas security is wholly adequate, while in others it is deficient. Identifying the deficiencies is the critical step in creating a balanced security policy. And this is where Digital's VMS Security Review Service can help.

The Security Review Service will evaluate your current procedures, identifying deficiencies and risks in system security and in the work environment; and it will recommend corrective actions for improving security.

The security policy thus created by your MIS team will be designed specifically for your business requirements and your VAX computer systems. The policy will be able to utilize the range and flexibility of the security controls in VMS. These controls provide a consistent security mechanism across all VAX and MicroVAX systems — from individual workstations to the largest multiprocessor configurations.

What Aspects of Security Are Analyzed?

The Digital Security Consultant will analyze a variety of factors that can affect your system security. Is the role of the system manager or system security manager clearly defined? As defined, does this role provide the authority needed to maintain system security at appropriate levels?

Is your VMS operating system properly installed? Has each application package been installed in a way that avoids changes in VMS system file protection?

Is the login procedure adequate for the level of security needed? Are user accounts designed with appropriate safeguards? Are system privileges extended only to users needing them?

Is disk space allocated with care? What is the system's proxy access procedure?

Are you using the VMS auditing facilities correctly? Are you auditing so often that you're missing a real problem?

After answering these questions and more, the consultant looks beyond system security controls, and reviews your site's policy regarding such matters as idle terminals, hardcopy terminal use, and data disposal.

The security of any information-processing operation requires that both environmental security measures and operating system safeguards be implemented. VMS provides the basic mechanisms for controlling access to the system and its data; it provides tools to ensure that system access is restricted to authorized users. Environmental security measures that complement VMS controls will promote a safe, secure operation. In assessing the larger security environment, Digital's Security Consultant will take into account the unique culture of your organization. This will include an assessment of security awareness among your personnel and taking note of work practices that may either enhance or weaken security.

How Does the VMS Security Review Service Work?

A Digital Security Consultant will contact your system management group. Together, they'll decide whether an on-site or remote (dialup) security review would be more appropriate. Subsequently, the Consultant will install several software tools on your VAX/VMS system(s); these tools are security monitoring and assessment programs developed by Digital to measure security on our own internal VAX/VMS systems. The Consultant will then proceed to assess your security procedures, including:

- Password implementation
- Disk space quota implementation
- File protection
- System audit procedure use
- Proxy access procedure
- System audit use
- User account implementation and use
- Application software installation and use
- DECnet installation and use

Following this analysis, the Consultant will issue a report assessing current security on your system(s) and will recommend any changes that could improve your system security.

Digital's Commitment to Secure Systems

The VMS Security Review Service is one more demonstration of Digital's commitment to providing secure products.

Digital is offering the VMS Security Review Service in order to let users determine if they are using all of VMS' security features to maximum advantage. The recent publicity surrounding violations and lapses in computer security has made many companies uneasy. Digital's response to this threat is to recommend that you have your system security evaluated professionally by a Digital Security Consultant. If the Consultant recommends more security controls, follow these recommendations. The Security Review Service helps you meet your security needs with the appropriate security policy, implementation, and practice.

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