

Daimler AG | CCVOSSEL GmbH

Server Hardening



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Requirements

The Virtual Competence Team Server of Daimler AG, one of the largest German car manufacturers and operator of many heterogeneous data centres, was looking for a solution to more effectively secure ("harden") all of its Windows server systems.

The solution to be created should be able to harden each server fully automatically at the push of a button according to standardised specifications and thus secure it against attacks by hackers.

The goal of the solution was also to achieve enormous cost savings, as time-consuming manual hardening can be eliminated by this solution. In addition, the hardening process for all systems can be integrated as a mandatory component in the associated operational and security processes.

Server Hardening Package

For the development of a tool for Server Hardening, the so-called "Server Hardening Package", the Team "Consulting & Security Solutions" was commissioned. The "Consulting & Security Solutions" Team of CCVOSSSEL GmbH was commissioned to develop a tool for server hardening, the so-called "Server Hardening Package", which was able to convince through its many years of experience in dealing with Windows server systems and through its core competences in the areas of "Security" and "Automation".

If functional problems should occur after the hardening of existing systems with their applications, a rollback function was also integrated with which the hardening can be reversed if necessary. This was essential because the functionality of production systems must not be restricted by hardening.

After an extensive test phase, most existing systems and all new Windows servers of Daimler AG worldwide were equipped with the Server Hardening Package and thus secured in the best possible way.

Development

The United States Department of Defence, in coordination with software manufacturers such as Adobe or Microsoft, publishes security configuration standards in the form of guides, the so-called Security Technical Implementation Guides. These guides contain a wide variety of hardening settings for each server version, which were reviewed and exported. The exported data was evaluated and weighted by the IT experts of CCVOSSSEL GmbH and categorised and prioritised according to its feasibility for the customer. The resulting configuration template is automatically integrated into the Server Hardening Package by scripts.

Hardening Settings

The configuration template is structured in such a way that both individual customer adaptations and the latest critical settings (e.g. for protection against Meltdown & Spectre) can be easily integrated.



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CCVOSSSEL GmbH

www.ccvossel.de | info@ccvossel.de | FreeCall: 0800 2286773 | + 49 30 6098409-0

Standort Berlin Prenzlauer Berg | Sredzkistraße 28 | 10435 Berlin

Standort Berlin Tempelhof | Rathausstrasse 48 | 12105 Berlin