SANS PROTECTS SERIES

SANS Protects: File Storage

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Analyst Program

OVERVIEW

SANS Protects is a series of papers focused on the most prevalent threats to specific, critical components of your environment as well as actions you can take to mitigate those threats and thwart threat actors. In this paper, we look at threats specific to file storage solutions. Organizations have long relied on central file servers to serve content to employees as well as manage data leakage and unauthorized access. In recent years, we have observed a shift to cloud-based storage, which poses its own unique threat model and attack surface.

MEET THE AUTHOR

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Matt Bromiley is a principal incident response consultant at a top digital forensics and incident response (DFIR) firm. In the DFIR firm Matt assists clients with incident response, digital forensics, and litigation support. He also serves as a GIAC Advisory Board member, a subject-matter expert for the SANS Security Awareness, and a technical writer for the SANS Analyst Program. Matt brings his passion for digital forensics to the classroom as a SANS Instructor for FOR508: Advanced Incident Response, Threat Hunting and Digital Forensics, and FOR572: Advanced Network Forensics, where he focuses on providing students with implementable tools and concepts.

In this SANS Protects paper, we examine current, prevalent threats to file storage solutions, how adversaries abuse them, and steps your organization can take to mitigate these threats.

This paper also includes an actionable checklist of essential mitigation tips and tricks that you can implement to strengthen your security posture.

Some of the threats and weaknesses we investigate include:

- Open or insecure cloud storage, allowing access to unauthorized individuals
- Misconfigured cloud storage, leading to data leakage and theft
- Ransomware versus file storage solutions
- Lack of visibility into multiple file storage solutions

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