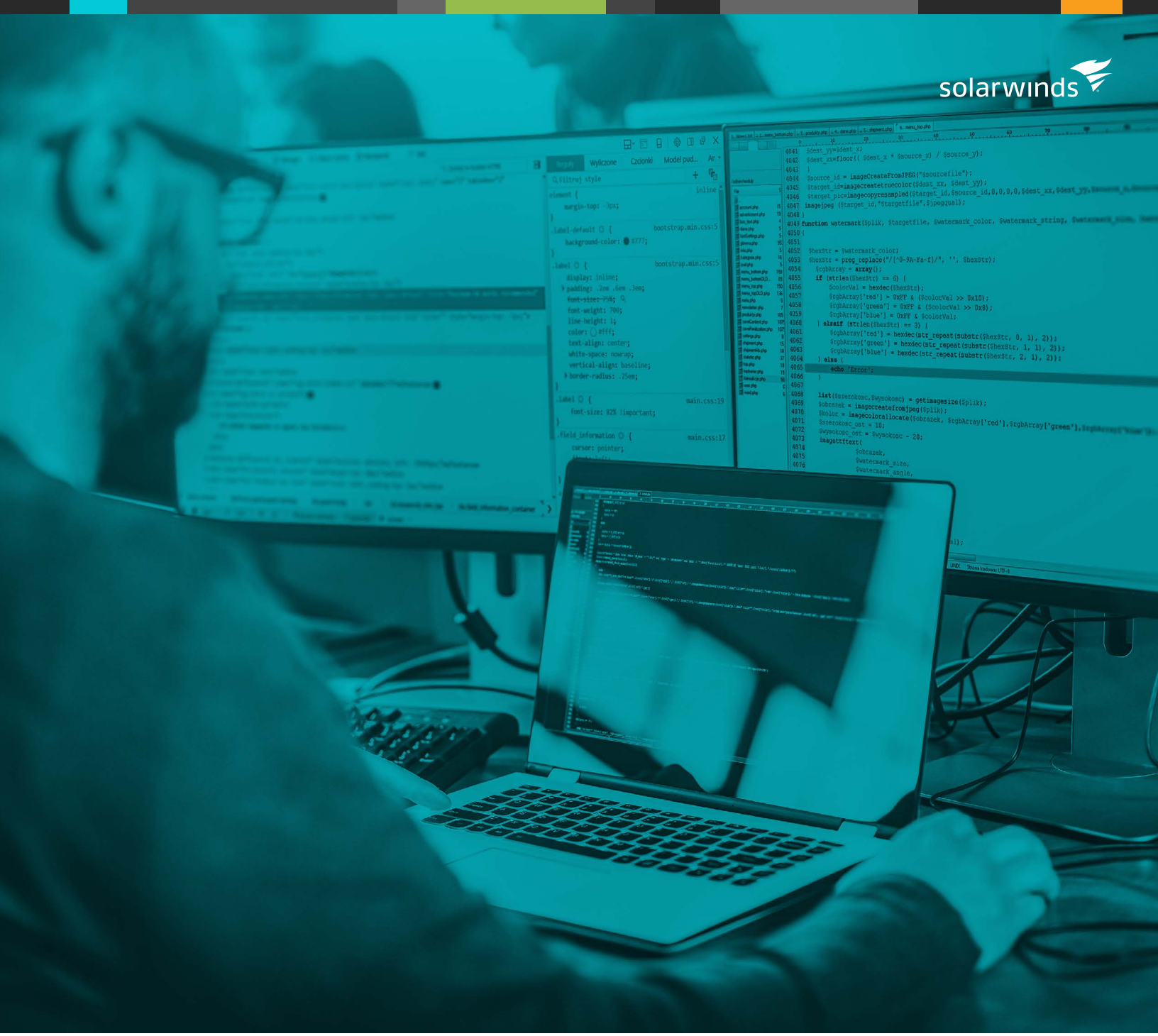

eBOOK

Help Protect Your Company from a Data Breach:

A guide for IT Professionals

INTRODUCTION

HELP PROTECT YOUR ORGANIZATION FROM A POTENTIALLY DEBILITATING DATA BREACH

According to The Ponemon Institute in its annual study, the average cost of a data breach is roughly $3.86 million USD, or an average of $148 USD per data record stolen[1]. This number has increased from the previous year's report, showing that breaches are growing costlier to businesses that get successfully attacked. Perhaps even scarier, the report claims that the mean time to identify a breach was 197 days. That's almost 200 days that a cybercriminal can have access to someone's data.

If businesses want to avoid ending up on the wrong side of a breach, they will likely need to increase their security measures, particularly around threat detection. Until recently, many software tools on the market that can help businesses detect and remediate threats to their networks (and ultimately their data) have been cost-prohibitive. As a result, these critical offerings have remained out of reach for many technology professionals. Not anymore.

SolarWinds® Threat Monitor™ was built to help make security services accessible for companies of nearly any size by reducing the cost and complexity of threat detection, response, and reporting. Threat Monitor allows businesses to deploy advanced security detection to help reduce the risks to their networks, IT assets, and data. However, before we get into the nuts and bolts of Threat Monitor, we should start by looking at the idea of cyber-risk in general.

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CYBER-RISK: A RISK TO YOUR NETWORK IS A RISK TO YOUR DATA

Today's obsession with amassing huge stores of data means that organizations face an exponentially increased exposure to risk. Data risk is heightened by the increase in data sources as well as the locations needed to store the data.

For years, one of the greatest sources for data risk has come from **email**.

Cybercriminals try to use an employee's good will or naiveté to harm companies by sending emails that contain viruses, malware, or ransomware that could potentially and accidentally be distributed throughout the organization.

There are also employees with bad intentions who look to personally profit by stealing corporate data and selling it to external parties. Social media and other messaging

channels provide more methods for malicious insiders to distribute information than ever before, making this perhaps a greater risk than it was in the past.

Data risk often starts with your network. If a cybercriminal can gain a foothold in your network, they may have free reign with your data. Depending on the extent of the intrusion, cybercriminals could make off with sensitive customer data, employee data, health information, intellectual property, or financial records. This in mind, it's absolutely crucial to make sure you have strong protection to keep your network safe if you want to keep your data safe as well.

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LAYERED SECURITY CAN HELP

In this age of ransomware and malicious code, technology professionals usually know that security is about more than antivirus. You need layers to protect your business effectively.

For starters, businesses need to remain up-to-date with the latest security patches. Cybercriminals can find exploits in software and then automate their attacks to search for vulnerable software. As a result, staying up to date with patches is security 101. A good patch management solution can automate a lot of the manual process of keeping software up to date, making it a potential quick win for many businesses.

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As mentioned before, email security matters a great deal. A robust email security solution can potentially help prevent a good portion of threats. Not to mention, user awareness training—teaching people to take precautions when receiving a new email to avoid phishing or spear-phishing—can also potentially help.

Yet these two examples only take you so far. What happens when your email security does falter? What happens when an exploit is discovered and used against you before there's an available patch?

TRADITIONAL LAYERED SECURITY IS ONLY PART OF THE SOLUTION

When traditional layered security measures fail to prevent an intrusion, businesses need to be able to detect the intrusion quickly. One way to do this is via proactive security monitoring, which adds an additional sophisticated layer to your security.

While your other measures can be your "locked doors" and "barred windows" to keep intruders out, **proactive security monitoring can be your alarm system** if someone does break in.

SolarWinds Threat Monitor was designed to help you proactively monitor your environment to help you see anomalies that arise based on baselines and thresholds. Threat Monitor correlates event log activity across your organization and alerts you to suspicious activity that could pose a risk to your network and, ultimately, your data assets. This is designed to provide valuable insight to help maximize security visibility across your environment, while allowing you to help safeguard and manage your IT assets.

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By alerting you to the presence of potentially damaging behaviors, Threat Monitor was built to help you avert or minimize their impact. You can correlate and store logs from multiple sources and perform full-text searches across large numbers of events. Almost any log or event type is supported, so there is no need for multiple applications or extra bandwidth for pushing and pulling logs to multiple locations. Additionally, as a cloud-based product, you can deploy your centralized operations center without upfront investment in hardware, additional software, or technical certifications.

Threat Monitor provides a mechanism to help shut down potential breach activity before it becomes a breach, and also helps provides an information trail designed to help defend against heavy fees and penalties imposed when a sustained breach occurs. With Threat Monitor, you get email notifications when suspicious traffic shows up on your network to potentially help you stop a breach *before* it happens.

Ultimately, Threat Monitor was designed to provide:

- **Centralized security monitoring across your network (or networks if you have multiple office locations)**
- **A seamless experience for your end users**
- **Continuously updated threat intelligence from multiple sources**
- **Audit trails, cloud integrations, near real-time alerts, anomaly detection, and more**
- **Automated responses against threats**

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QUICKLY PRODUCE A COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING OF THE IT ENVIRONMENT

Whether you are faced with PCI DSS, HIPAA, FFIEC, SOX, or other compliance regulations, SolarWinds Threat Monitor is intended to help you prevent potential violations via audit-ready reports.

Threat Monitor offers help with centralized IT compliance with multiconditional, cross-correlated alarms with customizable actions and on-demand or scheduled reporting. This allows you to summarize and identify important events from one location and dashboard. Intrusion detection includes Suricata with support for the ET Pro Ruleset and IP and domain reputations lists. You can also integrate with an existing IDS/IPS solution. You can customize your data inputs to add context to every event. With Threat Monitor, you can get access to Emerging Threats Intelligence, RiskIQ's reputation database, DHCP Bindings, vulnerability reports, and more.

Get SIEM capabilities and detailed compliance reports so you can demonstrate to assessors that **you are working to meet requirements**.

MITIGATING CYBER-RISK THROUGH PROACTIVE SECURITY MONITORING

Providing proactive protection can help demonstrate value to your stakeholders. Threat Monitor was designed to tell you when an attack may be happening so you can mitigate and minimize the impact.

The security landscape changes on almost a daily basis. Understanding your organization's vulnerabilities and the potential risks to your network (and your data) allows you to react accordingly and efficiently, preemptively addressing risks before they become a problem and having the right visibility into when a breach may be occurring.

Now is the time for a flexible and scalable SIEM platform that you, as a technology professional, can implement and use almost immediately to start safeguarding your IT landscape. Threat Monitor was designed to empower any organization to quickly deploy a robust security operations center—scaling for growth as it occurs while using existing resources.

Implementing your layered security approaches and using the appropriate tools can potentially allow you to stay up-to-date in this ever-changing security horizon.

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REFERENCES

[1] "2018 Cost of a Data Breach Study: Global Overview," Ponemon Institute and IBM. https://www.ibm.com/security/data-breach (accessed September 2018).

SolarWinds is a leading provider of powerful and affordable IT infrastructure management software. Our products give organizations worldwide, regardless of type, size or IT infrastructure complexity, the power to monitor and manage the performance of their IT environments, whether on-premise, in the cloud, or in hybrid models. We continuously engage with all types of technology professionals – IT operations professionals, DevOps professionals and managed service providers (MSPs) – to understand the challenges they face maintaining high-performing and highly available IT infrastructures. The insights we gain from engaging with them, in places like our THWACK online community, allow us to build products that solve well-understood IT management challenges in ways that technology professionals want them solved. This focus on the user and commitment to excellence in end-to-end hybrid IT performance management has established SolarWinds as a worldwide leader in network management software and MSP solutions. Learn more today at www.solarwinds.com.