

IDEABYTE

When It Comes to Stopping Web Site Hackers, Perfecto Is Perfect January 21, 2000

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Catalyst

New vendor announcement

Question

Where does Perfecto Technologies fit in the security landscape?

Answer

What's in a name? In this case, an accurate adjective. **Perfecto** solves a big problem suffered by every single Web application developer and Web site host. Namely, how do we keep hackers from hacking the Web site?

How do hackers do their nasty deeds, anyway? The answer lies in the Web page. When you view a Web page, you are generally invited to take specific actions, like read this paragraph, click on this link, enter text in this search bar, or add an item to a shopping cart. These types of activities are familiar to us, and they represent the uses of the Web site that the Web developer intended. But nasty things happen when a hacker interacts with that page in a way unintended by the developer. For example, the hacker can modify the URL address, or enter programming commands in the search bar, edit hidden fields to change the prices on merchandise in the shopping cart.

Perfecto guarantees that the only activities that can be performed on a Web page are those that the Web developer intended. Perfecto's AppShield software resides on or near the Web server and scans the Web application to identify all of the functionality that the Web app is designed to perform. Then, it lists all of these authorized activities in a database. When normal users interact with the application normally, everything is fine; but when a hacker edits the URL or the source code, the action fails, and a detailed audit log creates an alert. With AppShield, you will protect the Web application from unauthorized activities, and the detailed audit log will provide a clear report of all hack attempts.

There is tremendous potential in this elegant and revolutionary technology. Giga recommends that every Web application be protected by AppShield, without exception.

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