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A SANS 2021 Report Making Revolutionary Gains in Security on Your Endpoints

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There is an internet security truism that says, “The internet is actually pretty secure--it is all those vulnerable endpoints that are the problems.” Despite years of spending more and more on endpoint security, more than 70% of successful attacks still involve compromised endpoints.

Securing user devices is a complex problem, but it is not an unsolvable problem. Many enterprises have made dramatic improvements in meeting business demands for user applications and internet access while successfully avoiding or mitigating business risks. However, no single solution or product is the answer to every organization’s endpoint security problem.

This SANS whitepaper will detail a decision framework that security managers can use to map their existing IT management and security operations capabilities to the best mix of endpoint security tools and products. The decision framework will incorporate concepts from the CIS Critical Security Controls and the MITRE ATT&CK® framework, along with SANS experience from the WhatWorks program. The paper will define common success patterns and strategies for closing gaps and moving to higher levels of endpoint security. Specific products will not be recommended, but the patterns will detail the most effective mix of technologies, such as endpoint protection platforms, endpoint detection and response, network access control, threat hunting, isolation and other emerging technologies.

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About the Author



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John has over 35 years of experience in computer, network and information security. He was Gartner’s Lead Security Analyst for 13 years, working with global 5000 corporations and major technology and service providers. John began his career at the National Security Agency, where he designed secure voice systems, and the United States Secret Service, where he developed secure communications and surveillance systems. He has testified before Congress about cybersecurity, was named one of the 15 most-influential people in security in 2008 and is an NSA-certified cryptologic engineer.

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