AdviSec Ltd

Ambulance Trusts

Introduction

AdviSec Ltd is a small independent consultancy operated by Nigel Strutt that is offering a number of security-related consultancy services to NHS Ambulance Service Trusts. The services reflect the requirements for Ambulance Trusts to comply with the Airwave and N3 Codes of Connection and return 'positive' feedback with regard to the Information Governance toolkit.

Consultancy services are:

- Advice with regard to the <u>procurement</u> of security products and services, including penetration testing
- Gap analysis and risk assessment with regard to the Airwave and N3 Codes of Connection and RMADS for the Ambulance Radio Programme
- Documentation and awareness
- Firewall 'health-check'

Procurement

This exercise may vary from the procurement of a product or service, e.g. penetration test, to a large 'wide area network'. However generally speaking the following phases are involved:

- Defining requirements (including scoping)
- Negotiating with bidders concerning their method, resourcing model and timescales
- Preferred supplier (tender evaluation)
- Monitoring and reviewing the deliverables

Advisec Ltd is able to assist the Client with all phases of procurement, providing expert advice, saving time and considerable sums on money, and reducing the risk of 'failure' arising from various challenges, e.g. political, technical, cultural constraints and timescales.

Deliverables: Procurement specification, Tender evaluation and Product

Gap analysis and risk assessment

Connections to the Airwave and N3 networks are conditional on Ambulance Trusts addressing security requirements contained in the respective Code of Connection. The wider protection of the ICCS, CAD, and corporate networks is achieved by addressing security requirements contained in the RMADS[1] for the Ambulance Radio Programme.

This service assesses the level of compliance with regard to each requirement statement by undertaking inspections of facilities, reviewing documentation[2], interviewing stakeholders[3], analysing configuration data from IT components, and presenting on the challenges faced.

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[1] Risk Management & Accreditation Document Set (RMADS)
[2] Policies & procedures, Asset registers, Network diagrams, Test results
[3] Users, IT staff, Security officer, HR staff and 3rd party service suppliers

Deliverable: Compliance report[4] which may be used to inform the Information Governance process.

Documentation and Awareness

An organisation which professes to be 'mature' from a security perspective needs to have a comprehensive documentation set, including a 'top-level' security policy, risk assessment, organisational structure, and more detailed policy, procedures and plans, e.g. 'Acceptable usage policy', remote working procedure, Change control, Incident management, a procedure for IT management and administration, business continuity plans, backup and archiving policy, and review and test plans.

This service will review existing documentation against baseline templates and the standards ISO27001, ISO 20000 and BS25999, and following discussions with stakeholders will provide an update.

Deliverable: Documentation set

Firewall 'health check'

A number of firewalls were deployed under the Ambulance Radio Programme, supported by generic policy documents, to control the flow of traffic between the ICCS / Airwave and CAD / corporate domains (i.e. Trust managed)

Whilst these firewalls were tested during deployment, to ensure they allowed traffic to 'pass through' and from the resilience perspective, they were not reviewed in detail from a security perspective. There is a particular requirement, which has been highlighted at Security Working Groups, for the following components to be reviewed:

- Firewall policy (Trust-specific document)
- Firewall rule set

Deliverable: Recommendations

Why chose Advisec Ltd?

We understand the systems and networks that Ambulance Trusts operate to deliver 999 services, including ICCS, CAD, telephony and radio. And to reinforce our own knowledge we maintain working relationships with industry experts for the underlying technologies.

We have already delivered the aforementioned services to Ambulance Trusts in support of the Ambulance Radio Programme (England, Scotland and Wales) – and Northern Irealnd[5].

We are accredited under the CESG listed advisor scheme (CLAS) – which includes security vetting.

Further details

Further details are available on request, including Case Studies, references and testimonials. And a short presentation can be arranged if required.

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[4] Annex A and C with regard to the Airwave Code of Connection
[5] Barracuda network