DATA SHEET

ARCHER

Archer® Continuous Monitoring

Use Case for Public Sector Solutions

The Challenge

Security controls are infrequently and ineffectively assessed using tools from different vendors, with proprietary data formats and limited data sharing. There are typically more findi ngs than the available staff can manage and remediation of findings is not prioritized using all available contextual data.

Continuous monitoring (CM) is a combination of manual and automated assessments. While vendors who produce automated scanner or sensor tools market their product as "continuous monitoring solutions," they do not provide for manual assessments and typically check for only one defect type (vulnerability or misconfiguration). Updates to Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance create pressure to move CM planning forward, but lack of precedent leaves organizations guessing about finer implementation details.

Lack of CM in the public sector means defects and vulnerabilities remain open for long periods of time. It is also diffi cult to share data or the "big picture" of risk due to the disparity of tools and incomplete and outd ated assessment results. Staffing is insufficient to perform all assessments and remediate all findings. Lack of business context and visibility means the most critical defects are not always remediated first. Most organizations do not have the insight and metrics to perform defect rankings, especially with consideration for information system criticality.

Overview

Archer® Continuous Monitoring serves as a hub for many types of scanners and sensors, allowing organizations to build an aggregate risk view at any level of the enterprise. At the lowest end, individual defects can be monitored and scored. Defects are aggregated at each level of the hierarchy, from the individual device up to the department level. In this way, a risk score can be designated at any level and the amount of relative risk introduced can be measured. This allows resources to be focused on the remediation efforts that will pr ovide the greatest benefit.

Archer Continuous Monitoring enables faster, more targeted response to emerging risks. Staff can mitigate findings in the order in which they will most reduce risk. When used in tandem with the RSA Arche r Assessment & Authorization use case, Archer Continuous Monitoring enhances your FISMA, OMB and other regulatory compliance activities by verifying that information systems are abiding by authorization agreements and operating within acceptable levels of risk. This provides a more secure environment and more insight to make better, more informed risk decisions.

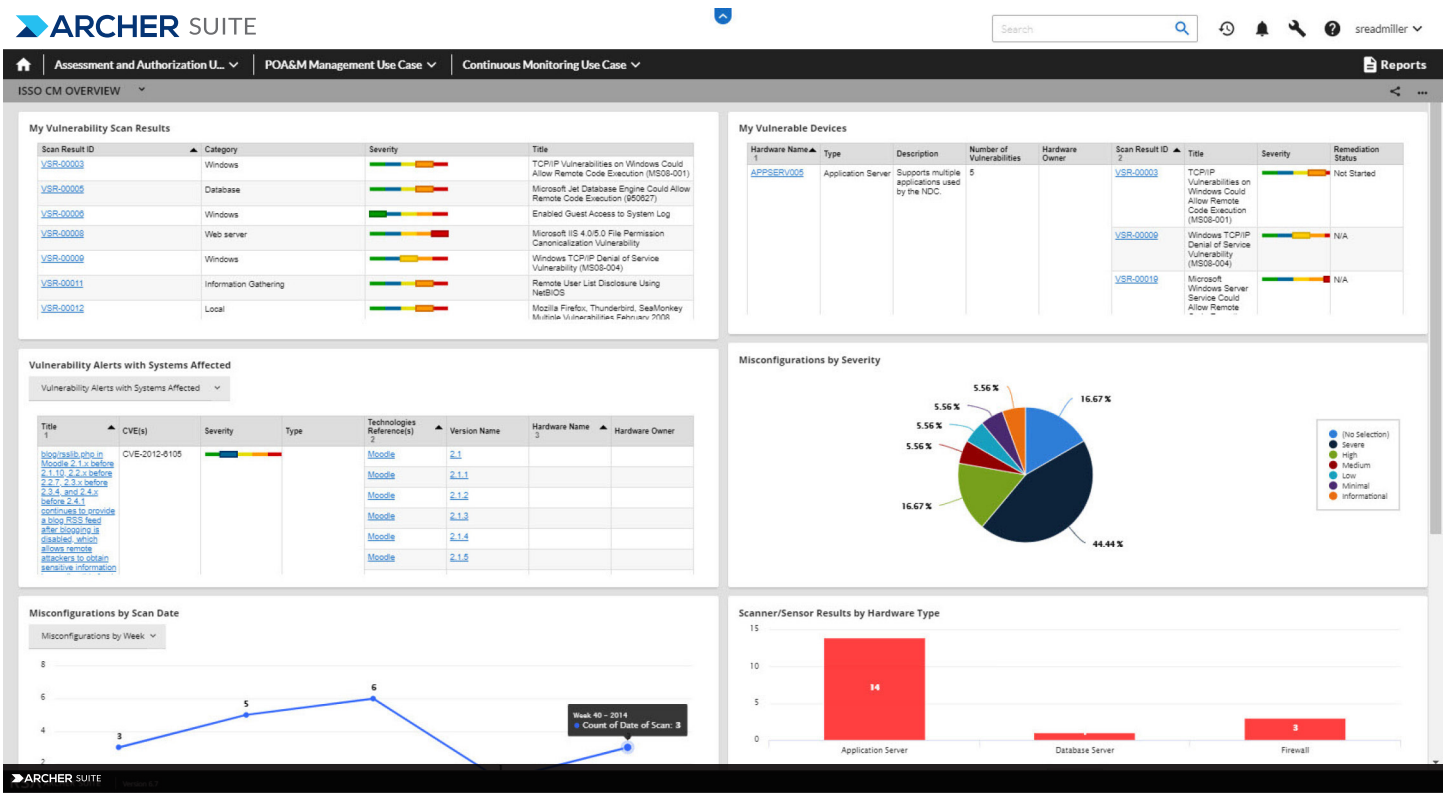
Key Features

- Current authoritative hardware and software inventories.
- Current defect libraries.
- Integration of scanners and sensors into a common environment, in a common format.
- Scoring and ranking algorithms for each defect, device and layer of the organizational hierarchy.
- Defect tracking and remediation.

Key Benefits

With Archer Continuous Monitoring, organizations can:

- Reduce exposure time.
- Reduce risk overall.
- Increase visibility/better decision-making.
- Access current risk data.
- Increase assurance and confidence based on current data.



Discover More

Archer, an RSA company, is a leader in providing integrated risk management solutions that enable customers to improve strategic decision making and operational resiliency. As true pioneers in GRC software, Archer remains solely dedicated to helping customers understand risk holistically by engaging stakeholders, leveraging a modern platform that spans key domains of risk and supports analysis driven by both business and IT impacts. The Archer customer base represents one of the largest pure risk management communities globally, with over 1,500 deployments including more than 90 of the Fortune 100.

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