

Government Agencies Use Trend Micro™ SecureSite to Monitor for Website Vulnerabilities

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) provides resources that help local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies battle the illegal drug trade in designated High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA). Maintaining website security ranks as a top priority for all participating agencies.

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— **Mike Bannister,**
Consultant,
BMG Consulting, LLC

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KEY BENEFITS

- **Automated and centralized monitoring.** Websites can be scanned daily, to identify vulnerabilities before they translate into security breaches, stolen data, corrupted files, or public website defacement.
- **Detailed reports.** Explanations of vulnerabilities, recommended remediation, and estimated time requirements are included in a professional report for administrators and management.
- **Zero administration.** With the hosted solution, Trend Micro's worldwide team of security experts conducts all application maintenance including updates, patches, and hot fixes. Internal IT staff can focus on more important tasks.

SECURING WEBSITES FROM ATTACKS

In the New Mexico region, the HIDTA Program helps law enforcement employees share information and applications to foster collaborations and ultimately help them battle illegal drug trafficking. A program-funded website provides a centralized repository, and gives members a portal to databases, email, and hosted applications.

Recently, nine New Mexico counties agencies consolidated duplicate applications within a single, shared website. The new site allows agencies to reduce initial deployment costs, recurring renewal fees, and ongoing management and support efforts. Sharing applications has also made it easier for teams to be more informed about the activities of the other teams in the area.



“I've provided technology consulting to the local law enforcement agencies for some time, and have helped them set up and manage the shared New Mexico HIDTA website,” said Mike Bannister, principal, BMG Consulting. “Security has been a big concern. Since individual agencies have to give up some control of the applications and system configurations, they often ask that we prove that the website is secure. Trend Micro™ SecureSite has helped me address their concerns and will be an important tool for keeping everyone informed about the status of security for the website.”

SCHEDULED VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS

Trend Micro SecureSite, a hosted application, scans websites and identifies security vulnerabilities to help evaluate the risks to website content and availability. The service automatically scans for a broad range of vulnerabilities, which could result in data leaks, access by unauthorized users, and phishing attacks. Trend Micro SecureSite is continually updated to detect system vulnerabilities, such as:

- Cross site scripting, the most common website vulnerability, enabling phishing and other fraudulent attacks

- SQL injection, the cornerstone of some of the most extensive credit card data thefts to date, where code is inserted into an existing database
- Information leaks such as IP addresses and other sensitive information showing up in program comments, user data, or forgotten website pages
- Directory traversal, unauthorized use of a common web server feature to access sensitive pages and content
- XPath injection, which can be used to expose XML documents
- Insufficient authorization, a condition which enables easy access to protected portions of a website
- Abuse of functionality, or the potential for exploiting website capabilities for unintended uses
- Buffer overflow, a feature that can be used to take complete control of a server for malicious purposes

Users can review the scan results with a web browser. Detailed explanations of the vulnerabilities are provided, as well as remediation recommendations and procedures. The remediation procedure details include estimates of the time required to make the recommended changes, making it easier to schedule the necessary adjustments to website configuration.

The complete report of the scan results can be printed or emailed as a communication tool for management teams. "Trend Micro SecureSite validates the security measures that we have put in place," explained Bannister. "The agencies that rely on the HIDTA website value the objectivity of a third-party evaluation and the Trend Micro SecureSite reports carry a lot of weight. By regularly monitoring our site, we can show that no new vulnerabilities have been introduced as we add new content and update the website. This hosted solution has helped us validate the new shared application model and keeps the confidence level high in terms of extending the site to more teams and agencies."

FLEXIBLE CONFIGURATION AND ZERO ADMINISTRATION

Users can select the frequency of the scans. "I've recommended that the HIDTA Program continue to utilize Trend Micro SecureSite on a daily basis," said Bannister. "This will ensure that no new applications or posted content can introduce vulnerabilities. The overall design of Trend Micro SecureSite has been well thought out and the format of the reports is professional and polished. Trend Micro gives us a very convincing report and is helping to make the new shared compute model a realistic target for more agencies and law enforcement teams."

Trend Micro's worldwide team of security experts continually enhances Trend Micro SecureSite. Scans are expanded to target new vulnerabilities and increase the information about remediation procedures. With the automated, hosted solution, Bannister can focus on other high-value projects for the HIDTA Program while also keeping all of the teams satisfied and confident in the overall security of their new site.

CORPORATE PROFILE

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program New Mexico Region

The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Reauthorization Act of 1998 authorized the designation of areas within the United States that exhibit serious drug trafficking problems as High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA). The HIDTA Program provides additional federal resources to those areas to enhance and coordinate drug control efforts among local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. The program provides agencies with coordination, equipment, technology, and additional resources to combat drug trafficking and its harmful consequences in critical regions of the United States.

- **Industry/Vertical** Government
www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/HIDTA/overview.html

TREND MICRO SOLUTIONS

- **Trend Micro SecureSite**
<http://us.trendmicro.com/us/products/sb/secsitesite>



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