

Application Security Assessment Profile: Core Banking System Software

1.1 About the Client

The customer for this project is a bank who adopted Core Banking Software(CBS) for its banking operations as provided by one of the CBS providers.

1.2 Project Description

The bank was continually growing with increasing number of branches servicing various customers and wanted to better service its customer and come up with innovative products.

The CBS software is available with some centralized modules located at Data centre at Bank's Head Office and individual client located at various bank branches. The bank had both individual and corporate customers in both rural and urban parts of India. The CBS other than its core module had various interfacing modules like NEFT and ATM and the bank wanted to add more and wanted modules based on its internal assessment to better service the customers.

1.3 Business Challenges

The bank in question is also required to adhere to Reserve Bank of India(RBI) requirements based on the various notifications and guidelines as issued by RBI that needs to be followed without any exception. Bank management wanted to make sure that the current CBS software continually adheres to the various security requirements as mentioned in the RBI notifications and the bank is in a comfortable position to report to RBI and various stakeholders of the bank who maybe impacted by the CBS application.

1.4 Our Role

We performed the following functions:

- Studied and Analyze the CBS software in terms of various modules, sub-modules, technology, architecture, interfaces with other third-party software and application etc
- Discussed with IT steering Committee of the bank on their expectations from the application in terms of security and other aspects and explaining the RBI requirements to business management
- Identify how the various business processes in the application embed the security requirements during the normal transactions and software features that can bypass security checks.

- Performed security assessment of CBS software including its various interfaces from technical perspective to check if they address the RBI requirements and identify the risk areas, if any.
- Provided a report on security risks assessment within the CBS application along with recommendations.

1.5 Resources used

- CISSP/CISA certified professional
- ISACA Audit methodology
- RBI guidelines as per notifications issued in year 2009
- Technical specifications and best practices as issued by other banking authorities in India
- General application security best practices

1.6 Business Benefits Delivered

- Project execution followed onsite and offshore model.
- Security of application was improved as many of the security risks identified were reported to CBS vendor who made the fixes.
- Compliance to RBI guidelines with improved security measures and increased confidence to stakeholders.