Devices connecting to networks are now in a constant state of flux, forcing enterprises to re-evaluate their security postures. With new and unmanaged devices joining and leaving their networks at a prolific rate, administrators need to think inside the box and focus more on internal security threats.

Network visibility and access control is the ideal solution to this dilemma, and ForeScout’s CounterACT 8 is a leading contender. It continuously monitors users, applications, processes and an impressive range of device types, allowing it to spot vulnerabilities quickly and block them before a security breach occurs.

Even better, CounterACT 8 does this all without requiring endpoint agents, allowing it to support heterogeneous networks comprising physical, virtual, cloud, infrastructure, wireless, mobile and IoT devices. This agentless approach makes CounterACT well positioned to protect potentially vulnerable operational technology (OT) devices, such as industrial control systems, that cannot have agents installed.

CounterACT discovers, classifies and assesses all networked devices and nothing slips through its net, as it uses twenty passive and active profiling techniques. Its clever 3-dimensional classification technology means it is capable of gathering a huge level of attributes, such as precise Device function, OS, vendor and model, apps, users and all LDAP information - it even show you the power consumption of PoE devices.

It has zero touch on critical OT devices by passively profiling them, but can still tell whether it is something such as an HVAC or a medical X-ray machine. ForeScout’s device cloud helps CounterACT build a more robust classification engine by gathering anonymous information from opted-in customers and the cloud currently contains details on over three million devices.

ForeScout gathers a vast amount of information and its freshly-designed GUI puts it all at your fingertips. The widget-based dashboard can be easily customised to present a complete incident response center or executive level view, and selecting any element allows you to deep-dive for more information. It also provides a remarkably detailed hardware and software inventory, made all the more accessible by the integral search facilities.

CounterACT runs continuous assessments on all devices to determine their security posture and automatically applies the most appropriate access policy, based on its findings. ForeScout provides a large policy template collection to get you started and these can be run passively, with all actions deactivated to safely determine their impact before going to enforcement.

Compliancy checks ensure end points such as workstations have required components, including anti-virus software and the latest service packs, before being allowed network access and CounterACT’s self-remediation tools reduce the support burden.

ForeScout releases new policies in response to emerging threats, allowing CounterACT to provide instant protection. A unique feature is IoT device assessment, which checks them as soon as they join the network to see if they’re using weak credentials such as factory default, commonly used or custom defined during initial install.

With ForeScout, businesses can implement either 802.1X authentication or SmartConnect to provision network access on wired and wireless networks. SmartConnect avoids configuration and operational challenges associated with 802.1X implementation also ensuring a high level of security and user productivity.

CounterACT’s hybrid approach to access control gives administrators the power to dynamically segment their network. Should a device fail compliancy checks, it can be placed in a restricted zone while further checks are conducted and, if an IoT device comes online, it can be automatically placed in a separate and secure network segment.

ForeScout’s CounterACT 8 is a powerful and highly scalable network visibility and access control solution that delivers the best classification tools for instant awareness of all network-connected devices.

Its automated compliancy checks and policy-based segmentation make CounterACT 8 perfectly poised to bring unity and security to chaotic networks.

Product: CounterACT 8
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