



Kyndryl Security Benchmarking and Systems Hardening

Systems hardening, implementation of security controls and benchmarks are the best ways to defend a company against cyber attackers.

Introduction

Systems hardening is a practice within a broader practice known as Security and Vulnerability Management, which is a continuous process that includes identifying and assessing security postures, internal and external threats, along with formulating policies to shield IT assets and critical infrastructures of any organization.

Security benchmark and systems hardening is a suite of techniques, tools, and methodologies to manage and reduce vulnerability in servers and computers, as it aims to reduce network and IT security risks by eliminating unnecessary services and applications, as well as activating build-in security features. The fewer attack vectors, the fewer opportunities attackers have for entering organization's IT ecosystem.

Kyndryl's Point of View

Systems hardening requires continuous effort, but the diligence pays off in substantive ways across organizations via:

- **Enhanced system functionality:** Since fewer programs and less functionality means there is less risk of operational issues, misconfigurations, incompatibilities, and compromise.
- **Significantly improved security:** A reduced attack surface translates into a lower risk of data breaches, unauthorized access, systems hacking, or malware.
- **Simplified compliance and auditability:** Fewer programs and accounts coupled with a less complex environment means auditing the environment will usually be more transparent and straightforward.

Highlights

Key Capabilities

- Perform CIS Benchmarking scans from customer's existing vulnerability scanning tools (Tenable, Qualys, etc.).
- Client can provide its own Tenable instance, or also Kyndryl can provide a hosted instance.
- Develop system hardening remediation plan.
- Manage and Track Remediation with OpenScap.

Available Service

- Security Benchmarking and Systems Hardening includes Assessment and Advisory services.

Security Benchmark and Systems Hardening

By 2025, organizations that have created dedicated hybrid security policies and developed a culture of trust will be 3x less likely to suffer a security breach.

IDC FutureScape: Worldwide Future of Work 2023 Predictions

By 2024, 75% of enterprises will seek help with cybersecurity measures to counter vulnerabilities created by investment in emerging technologies and to exploit the full digital business value chain.

IDC FutureScape: Worldwide Future of Work 2023 Predictions

Over time due to changes in benchmark standards, systems may fall behind and no longer exemplify currency with regards to modern system hardening standards. In addition, system hardening is often mistaken to be considered as a one-time task. Therefore, change management procedures are a weak link in maintaining compliance posture.

Security Benchmark and Systems Hardening is part of Security Assurance Services, which compares client's IT infrastructure security controls to benchmark against industry best practices, to enhance their operational security and resilience, providing recommendations on product configuration settings and technical specifications.

There are some frameworks like CIS Benchmarks (Center for Internet Security), which are a set of technical guidelines and best practices designed for securing computer systems and networks to help organizations harden the security of their digital assets.

Kyndryl can use customer's existing vulnerability scanner to gather CIS Benchmark data from the customer's machines, perform analysis, and provide guidance on remediation.

Competitive Differentiators

- Kyndryl has deep expertise in designing, running, and managing the most modern, efficient, and reliable technology infrastructure that the world depends on every day, which means a huge expertise when implementing security controls and system hardening.
- Kyndryl can quickly assist organizations with bringing their system hardening benchmarks up to current CIS scanners using tools that customer already owns, in combination with its own tools, processes, and skilled consultants.

Target Audience

CIO, CISO, CTO, Infrastructure Manager

Target Industry

Security Benchmark and Systems Hardening is applicable and in-scope across all industry sectors, regardless of company size or geography.

Why Kyndryl?

As the world's largest IT infrastructure services provider, we have served thousands of enterprise customers in more than 60 countries, leveraging more than 30 years of mission-critical service experience, and developing an extensive ability to focus on assessment insights and remediation activities, including best practices like CIS Benchmarks and CIS Controls.

Experience

We are deeply committed to advancing the critical infrastructure that powers human progress. We are building on our foundation of excellence by creating systems in new ways: bringing in the right partners, investing in our business, and working side by side with our customers to unlock potential.

Technology

We have developed our own methodology and tools to analyze client's product configuration settings and security controls for system hardening, based on CIS Benchmarks and CIS Controls.

Support

We also manage our own technical specifications for products that do not have a CIS Benchmark.

For more information

To learn more about Security Benchmark and Systems Hardening, please contact your Kyndryl Representative or Kyndryl Business Partner, or visit www.kyndryl.com.

The Kyndryl logo is displayed in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters are a dark red color. The 'y' has a distinctive shape with a long, curved tail that loops back towards the stem.

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