IT Risk Exposure Heat Mapping

Project Cassandra

Within Deutsche Bank's globally distributed technology environment, we respond to a myriad of disjointed control reports about our IT systems. Today, reports identifying issues and vulnerabilities in IT systems originate from varied sources, making it difficult to coordinate and prioritize remediation efforts.

To alleviate this, Project Cassandra introduces an interactive GTO-wide Heat Mapping tool. This tool measures the impact of identified risks against individual application stacks and supports targeted remediation efforts.

Cassandra will aggregate and normalize data from dozens of distributed reports in one coherent portal. Using flexible techniques, data from sources ranging from application vulnerabilities to server configuration issues, are correlated against each application's stack. Individual scores and rankings are then calculated for each application and its supporting components.

These tractable scores communicate to our clients how an application and its components are performing over time. In this view management and owners can tangibly see where trouble lies and make informed investment decisions to improve service.

Cassandra will also visualize our applications' interconnected architecture and increase our understanding of impacts in triage situations.

The aim of Project Cassandra is to provide a drill-down service of our application architecture that provides simplistic, risk-related insight into our comprehensive reporting data.

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Innovative approaches to IT Risk

IES GSR introduces new approaches to IT Risk Management

A Bottom up Approach to Risk

- Represents a non-traditional approach to mining issues and vulnerabilities from low level infrastructure up the application
- Normalize risk-related information from different sources with simplified techniques
- Application scoring accounts for potential risks bubbled up from lower level infrastructure

End of Fire Hose Reporting

- Creates an end-user friendly interface to reporting data
- Establishes an application specific link for reporting information at varying levels of infrastructure
- Centralizes risk-related information from dozens of sources in one portal

Exposure Risk Indexes

- Application scores establish a comparable health measurement
- Historical scores present a view of application trends over time
- Mini-dash boards built per application highlight outlying systems

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Use Cases

How can we take advantage of Cassandra functionality?

Heat Mapping

- Find hotspots for potential risk and browse individual application rankings according to risk scales
- Measure components (e.g. servers) against risk-related information aggregated from various sources (e.g. Vulnerability Scanning and ArcSight)
- Explore relationships between technology components starting at the application level to quickly see important risk related information at each layer

Impact Analysis

- Assess the impact of exposed components by exploring dependences across shared infrastructure
- Understand potential impacts to applications by using drill up functionality
- Use compressive searching features to find components with similar properties

Prioritized Remediation

- Isolate incident impacts on critical applications (e.g. virus outbreak or zero tolerance policy)
- Estimate the broad affects of technology changes by adjusting Cassandra's calculation models
- Simulate possible outcomes during adverse events to drive better investment decisions

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