



For the Complete Technology & Database Professional

DATABASES ARE MORE AT RISK THAN EVER: 2011 IOUG DATA SECURITY SURVEY

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Databases Are More at Risk Than Ever: 2011 IOUG Data Security Survey was produced by Unisphere Research and sponsored by Oracle. Unisphere Research is the market research unit of Unisphere Media, a division of Information Today, Inc., publishers of Database Trends and Applications magazine and the 5 Minute Briefing newsletters. Unisphere Media, 630 Central Avenue, Murray Hill, New Providence, NJ 07974. Tel: 908-795-3701, Email: Tom@dbta.com, Web: www.dbta.com.

Join the IOUG—If you're not already an IOUG member and would like to continue receiving key information like this, visit the IOUG at w3.ioug.org/join/today for information on how to join this dynamic user community for Oracle applications and database professionals.

Data collection and analysis performed with SurveyMethods.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

More than half way through, 2011 is shaping up to be a record year for data breaches. In one of the more egregious incidents earlier this year, more than four million websites fell prey to a SQL injection attack. And that is just the tip of the iceberg. The same lack of controls that enable hackers to compromise database servers and steal sensitive data can also be exploited by insiders for personal gain or even industrial espionage. The greatest business challenge today, in the minds of many information security professionals, is the stealthy and persistent infiltration by attackers who seek to steal valuable proprietary information.

The threat to business is real. Many information security professionals are concerned about the increase in data breaches and methods that include social engineering, SQL injection attacks and advanced persistent threats. Designed to steal valuable proprietary information by infiltrating database infrastructure, these malicious attacks require organizations to implement stronger controls to defend themselves. However, a new survey from the Independent Oracle User Group (IOUG) finds that many IT security and database professionals have not done enough to secure their data from either insiders or external entities exploiting insider access.

Methodology

The annual data security survey is based on the responses of 355 IOUG members, sponsored by Oracle Corporation, conducted in July 2011. Administered by Unisphere Research, a division of Information Today, Inc., the survey is conducted via email directing respondents to a web-based survey instrument.

Respondents are also encouraged to provide open-ended responses to further explore the nature of their data security adoption strategies. The IOUG Data Security Survey has been conducted every year since 2008.

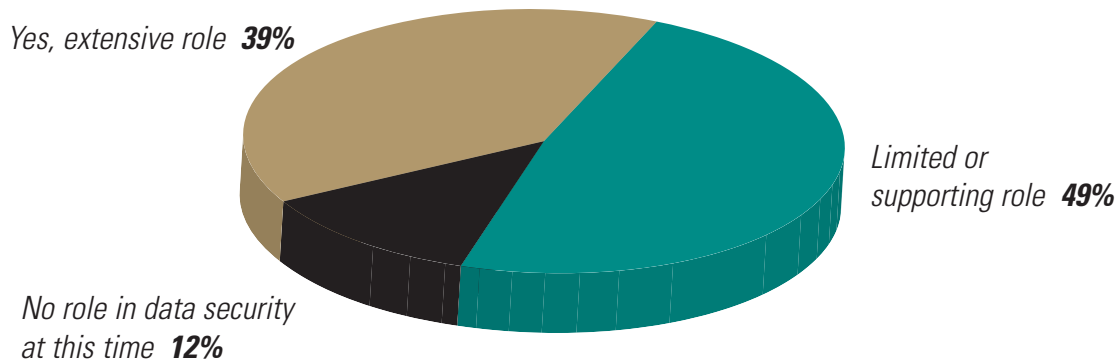
Respondent Demographics

Of the respondents, 88% play some type of role in ensuring data security within their enterprises. About 4 out of 10 say their role is “extensive,” suggesting they are the managers ultimately responsible for selecting the appropriate tools, implementing the right technical and administrative controls, and administering the appropriate procedures to address database security. (See Figure 1.) When asked who in their organization is responsible for database security the most common answer is the database group, followed closely by the security group. Additionally, systems management, application, and development groups also play a role, although moderately. (See Figure 2.)

Many respondents are responsible for a large number of database instances. Close to one-fifth report that they have more than 500 databases within their companies, and a similar number have between 101 and 501. (See Figure 3.)

Forty-two percent, the largest segment of respondents, are database administrators, and another 14% are either developers or analysts. About 12% are IT managers. By company size, a large number, (28%), come from organizations with more than 10,000 employees, and 34% represent companies with 1,000 to 10,000 employees. (See Appendix Figures 32-34 at the end of this report.)

Figure 1: Data Security Role?



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