Increased connectivity creates more attack vectors to manage and for intruders to exploit. It is essential to understand and manage the security of your network as an increasingly broad range of customers, partners, vendors, and outsourced service providers have access to enterprise resources. In this environment, security is constantly changing, increasingly complex, and critical to success.

**Identify Network Vulnerabilities**

Your security defenses have resisted compromise from non-targeted attacks, but can they withstand a targeted attack? Security teams may perform regular security scanning, but do not always have the time and resources for manually testing. Simply monitoring the network for attacks is not enough to instill confidence that an attacker would be detected. Penetration testing is a must to avoid loss of business, fines, litigation, and the massive remediation costs that could result from a breach.

**Penetration Testing**

Internal and External Penetration Tests identify and exploit vulnerabilities. Internal Tests looks at attacks from within, while External Tests looks at Internet-based attacks. They measure the effectiveness of your current security program using simulated threats. These tests provide a practical security evaluation of your network by trying to gain access to valuable systems and data. They contribute to improvements in organizational security posture by demonstrating the security weaknesses attackers are likely to exploit.

A network penetration test report paints the same picture an attacker sees in a language your team can understand. It identifies the risks that can actually be exploited, so your engineering teams can get back to building instead of fixing low-risk issues. The results of a penetration test clearly demonstrate the impact to the business and justifies security budget.

To prevent a security breach and loss of critical business data, defining, identifying, and classifying security gaps in your network is a must. Hundreds of global organizations rely on Cisco Advisory services to identify security safeguards and implement defenses.

**Next Steps**

Visit www.cisco.com/go/secservices to connect with our advisors and protect your business today.