For the Complete Technology & Database Professional

DBA–SECURITY SUPERHERO

2014 IOUG ENTERPRISE DATA SECURITY SURVEY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

"With great power comes great responsibility"
—Francois-Marie Arouet (Voltaire)

When it comes to data security, today's enterprises are under assault as they never have been before. This year's Russian hacker breach by "CyberVor" was the most visible example of sensitive data falling into the wrong hands, but this incident was only one of many—the news never stops.

The world needs a hero to step forward. In fact, it needs many heroes with the power and knowledge to step forth and do something about this problem. Database administrators are in the right place, at the right time.

Data security has evolved into a top business challenge. The challenge continues to grow and the villains are taking advantage of lax preventive and detective measures.

In many ways, it has become an enterprise-wide challenge in search of leadership. Senior executives are only too painfully aware of what's at stake for their businesses, but often don't know how to approach the challenge. This is an opportunity for database administrators and security professionals to work together, take a leadership role, and move the enterprise to take action.

Who else can we look to as stewards of sensitive intellectual property, personally identifiable and protected health information? Who else has the privileges bestowed upon them to manage and administer this sensitive data? Our heroes, the database administrators have the knowledge and education to secure sensitive data on behalf of organizations and citizens of the known universe.

Now is the time for database administrators and security professionals to lead their companies to ensure data privacy, protect against insider threats, and address regulatory compliance.

As we do each year, the Independent Oracle Users Group (IOUG) surveys a wide range of database security and IT professionals responsible for security, and examines the current state of enterprise data security. By using this data, our desire is for readers to educate their executives and gain consensus with the security team to drive a data security strategy with actionable objectives.

Underwritten by Oracle Corporation and conducted by Unisphere Research, a division of Information Today, Inc., the report summarizes the findings from a survey of 353 IOUG data managers and professionals.

Key highlights include the following:

■ Enterprises recognize that data risks come from within, and continue to increase funding. However, close to half still release production data to outside parties, and more than one-fifth report sensitive data is still vulnerable to breaches.

■ Two-fifths of respondents admit they are not fully aware of where all the sensitive data in their organizations is kept. Those taking proactive measures to lock down data and render it useless to outsiders are still in the minority. Relatively few have safeguards against accidental or intentional staff abuse.

■ Organizations are still not doing enough to monitor their data assets or keep tabs on super-users. Only about one-third can prove abuse of data assets. In a world where stolen data can be distributed globally within seconds," two-thirds of managers estimate that it would take a matter of days to remediate a breach, or simply don't know what length of time would be involved.

■ Data security audits still remain few and far between. Only one-sixth review their data assets on at least a monthly basis.

As the data shows, data security is not something respondents take lightly. Yet, it's an ongoing, evolving challenge to protect the growing amounts of information on which enterprises rely. While many organizations in the survey have been spared of major incidents so far, it pays to stay vigilant. As one respondent put it: "You have to assume it's going to happen someday. Luck favors the prepared."

Within today's enterprises, no other type of professional is better equipped or more knowledgeable to deal with data security than database professionals. These are the individuals who understand where the risks are, and how these risks can ultimately affect their organizations. In an era in which information is the most precious resource powering business, database professionals can take a leadership role in helping to prepare and protect these assets. Preparation and education is a role experienced data managers and professionals are ready to take on in their enterprises.

Survey respondents hold a variety of job roles and represent a wide range of organization types, sizes, and industry verticals. The largest segment of respondents, 44%, hold the title of database administrator, followed by director or manager. One-third work for very large organizations with more than 10,000 employees. By industry sector, the majority of respondents come from IT service providers, government, education, financial services, and manufacturing. (See Figures 33–36 at the end of this report for more detailed demographic information on job titles, company sizes, and industry groups.)