Ask The Expert

TANIUM Public Sector | CDI

Safeguard Your School From Cyberattacks
How Tanium and CDI are Partnering Together to Help Secure Your Data

Doug Thompson,
Director of Technical Solutions Engineering and Chief Education Architect, Tanium

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Director of SLED Sales, CDI

How are schools' cybersecurity systems being hit the hardest in the modern IT era post COVID?

"With student data there's not a week that goes by where you don't hear about a school that's been compromised " Doug Thompson stated. "Either through ransomware, where they've encrypted all the data, or somebody's actually exfiltrated data out of the school. " He added that "we're used to protecting things when everybody was inside the school building itself, not so much when they're at home, this puts not only the IT department at the school, but also the school board and administration at a credibility risk."

"If you can't protect my data, what are you going to do about it?" Thompson adds. "You need to come up with some type of system that's going to help alert you and help you bring these things to scale. 21 days of downtime for ransomware attacks, 66% of the organizations worldwide were hit with ransomware. These are some alarming numbers. So, we need to do something differently."

"This is where Tanium and CDI come into play. The very first thing that you need to do is be able to understand and ask yourself: do you know where your assets are? What is out there? How can you protect what you don't know about? The result of all this at the end of the day is that the kids can't get into their system because the server has been compromised, malware shut down the district for over a week, or there's ransomware going on. This all disrupts the learning environment. This is the big problem that we have, how do we keep learning going forward."

What's the best step to take in improving your cybersecurity? CDI + Tanium

Doug Thompson compared cybersecurity to protecting your house stating "The best step to take to start improving your cybersecurity is to know all that you're protecting in your house. Think about it this way. Where are all your windows and doors? Are they locked? That's the fundamental question. You think you know where all your assets are? What's on them? Who's using them? And are there any threats going on? So, the next piece of that, once I know everything that I've got, then we start building this house. If I had simply jumped to remediating threats, at step one, my house is going to collapse. Because I don't have a good foundation. I don't know where all my endpoints are. So now, once I know everything, then how am I going to manage my system? Let's start thinking ahead. Let's start being proactive about it."

In talking about the CDI and Tanium partnership, Chris Clark noted that "CDI can obviously help from a very deeper and wider perspective. But with the help of Tanium and really getting to the specifics, you can figure out what you have, because right now staffing is the biggest problem. I'm sure you have a staff that's very good. But it's the factor of how much can they handle in a day and how deep they can get. Not even just from a security side, it's the day to day, and it's your data center, and then it's your network, and you're talking about everything else. So I think that you know, what we should try to do is kind of uncover where the where the gaps are." Thompson added that with "Tanium + CDI, you can take on any breaches because you know what that exploit is. You can see all your assets, patch any breaches, see where your vulnerabilities are, stopping attacks before they happen."