**IDEABYTE**

# Securing Web Content, Not Just Web Servers

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## Catalyst

A client inquiry

## Question

Which companies do network security analysis or security audits of Web sites?

## Answer

The best technology — the only technology — for Web content vulnerabilities comes from a little company named **Sanctum** (www.sanctuminc.com), formerly Perfecto Technologies, out of Israel and San Jose, Calif. Sanctum has a product that performs a security audit of all the common ways hackers defeat Web sites and either deface the site, change prices, change financial data or other sensitive content, or violate the authentication mechanisms of the site. The company also has, as might be imagined, a proxy that protects Web content in real time.

This is different from securing the Web server itself; it is a security measure used to protect the content of the Web site and applications. Sanctum solutions are no-brainers, as far as I'm concerned. Everyone should take steps to protect the content — because content is what the world experiences. And no amount of other security measures will stop content infractions.

Securing the Web server is a matter of closing ports and services, hardening the operating system, and eliminating weak or unnecessary passwords. Most vulnerability assessment tools from **Network Associates**, **Axent** or **ISS** can do that effectively.

In all cases, the assessment may be done in-house, or a vendor may be hired to perform the assessment periodically as a service.

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