Managing Oracle Security Patches in Mature Enterprise Software

UNDERSTANDING ORACLE’S LIMITED APPROACH TO SECURITY

As you consider getting off the upgrade treadmill – commonly known as “maintenance” by the ERP vendors – security and vulnerability support rise to the top as a potential final stumbling block. To keep your business systems safe, it may seem you can’t afford to lose access to the Oracle CPU Quarterly Notes. But after you stabilize your ERP systems, do you really need vendor alerts and patches?

What you need is vulnerability management and auditing compliance. But vendor-supplied security updates typically address very narrow and specific potential vulnerabilities that are only in the vendor’s portion of your technology stack. These vulnerabilities may indeed address a potential issue – but they do not, and cannot, guarantee the overall security of your ERP system, which consists of multiple layers and components. In effect, your vendor maintenance fees are paying for very incomplete security support. In addition, security patches often apply only to the latest releases of the vendor’s software. If you are operating a stable version of the application platform, especially with customizations, you probably can’t apply or don’t even need the latest patches. What you do need is a holistic approach to application security without the expense of ongoing vendor maintenance contracts and software upgrades. And that’s exactly where Rimini Street comes in.

MAINTAIN APPLICATION SECURITY WITHOUT ERP UPGRADES

Keeping up expensive maintenance contracts is not necessary to maintain application security. Rimini Street can show you a better way. Once an ERP platform is stable, there is no real need for additional patches from the vendor. Instead, when security issues do arise, Rimini Street can help you define and implement strategies that address the overall security of your corporate, customer and partner data. We provide guidance on the implementation of a more holistic approach to security for your systems that can include the utilization of application firewalls, tightening encryption standards for networked traffic, ensuring PCI compliance for stored credit card data, and minimizing access points in data centers. To engage with our experts all you need to do is open a case with our support team.

STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY CAPABILITIES

Rimini Street provides interoperability, upgrade flexibility and security and compliance guidance that extend the overall life of your systems. We provide end-to-end services and can show you how to avoid the expense of upgrading other parts of your technology stack and extend the life span of your IT investment while containing the total cost of ownership. Rimini Street employs experienced technology engineers to respond to your changing and dynamic IT environment. Our experts can:

- **Insulate existing technology** to protect, preserve and extend the life of applications.
- **Guide you in the application of a holistic approach to security** to keep systems compliant without constant patching.
- **Enhance interoperability** with innovative middleware solutions that keep your enterprise applications working as technology stack layers come and go.
- **Enable new features and functionality** with customizations and add-ons that play well with legacy systems.
- **Future-proof your system** and provide expertise on legacy technology as IT strategy changes.
A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO SECURITY

When requested, Rimini Street advises clients on how to implement encapsulation strategies to protect their stable ERP system while addressing changes to the dynamic environment of security challenges, client and desktop software migrations, and database upgrades. Encapsulation techniques – such as server and client virtualization, browser plugins, and PCI tokenizing – keep core systems operating while enabling necessary changes in the business environment. To address security concerns, you can utilize compensating controls, such as application firewalls that provide “virtual patching” capabilities. Instead of manually finding and fixing individual security holes reported by vendors, a continuous scan of the system feeds vulnerabilities into the virtual firewall, which automatically remediates the security holes without impacting the core ERP system.

Rimini Street also coaches organizations in methods of minimizing the data losses and security breaches that often occur inside the data center or corporate network. For example, by encrypting network traffic, using virtual LANs to isolate critical network nodes, and minimizing exposure of applications through DMZ network zones, you can increase security far beyond what the security patches and updates offered by application vendors provide.

Rimini Street extends the overall life of your vital ERP systems while reducing TCO by focusing on usability, performance, interoperability, security and compliance.

THE REAL VALUE OF APPLICATION SECURITY

In terms of security, Rimini Street’s goal is to help clients proactively maintain a more secure application while achieving a 50 percent cost savings over the vendor’s isolated support program which offers only application-centric fixes. Our technical and architectural security guidance often pinpoints and circumvents vulnerabilities months and even years before they are discovered and addressed by Oracle.

RIMINI STREET TECHNOLOGY SOLUTION BRIEFS

This document is one in a series of Rimini Street Technology Solution Briefs. ERP applications typically include a wealth of features and functions. However, as elements of the total system landscape change and evolve – mobile devices, operating systems, browsers and security – ERP applications are under constant pressure to keep pace with their surrounding environment.

Each Technology Solution Brief describes a single infrastructure issue common to legacy enterprise applications and describes the types of solutions offered by Rimini Street as part of our standard support services.

CONTACT RIMINI STREET FOR MORE INFORMATION

There is no “one size fits all” solution to security and compliance support while preserving your ERP systems. Contact Rimini Street for an in-depth discussion of your specific ERP landscape and security needs.