



AbOSE Report

(**A**bilene **O**perational **S**ecurity **E**xercise)

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Overview

- Background, Goals
- Methodology
- Findings
- Lessons Learned
- Follow up
- Invitation to International Security Exercise
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Background & Goals

- One day long event, held November 2005 in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA
- Designed to initiate conversations on the Network Operation Center's (NOC) activities in their support of Abilene
- This was not an audit
 - Information gathering, baseline document
- Document is currently in draft and has been released to participants. A publicly released document should be available soon.

Methodology

- Two scenarios, invented, refined, executed
- “Table top” exercise (talking, no flows initiated)

- DDoS attack
 - Backbone link is inconsistently saturated between two core router nodes
 - Targeting an important demo
- Router compromise with press/reporter investigation
 - Router provides indication of problem and reporter has been contacted by “bad guy” to advertise the compromise

Findings

- Report identifies ~40 observations with suggested responses
- Patterns of activity emerged in the two scenarios, some expected and others not.
- Some processes were in place and followed, others need to be developed, noting that the any new process is hinged on the NOC's return on investment
- Some observations revealed policy questions that should be answered by Internet2, or, the NOC's response is based on other people's decisions.

Lessons Learned (some of them)

- Well designed, **detailed** scenarios are important to respond to unexpected questions.
- Engineers (plural) need to be involved in the design ***and*** execution of the scenario. (Obviously, these engineers will not participate in the exercise.)
- Make sure that every external “event” or “character” is represented by a real person. If someone is supposedly upset and sending email, have a real person start sending email... and then call a person’s cell phone.
- Test processes, not the cleverness of engineers.

Follow Up

- Initiate regularly occurring Abilene exercise
 - Planning to hold annually, during the summer holidays
 - Potentially run a table-top **and *live*** exercise
- “Regular” exercises with international partners
 - What is the proper format of an international exercise? Process analysis or “real problems”
 - Start off with a similar baseline exercise and evolve into more complicated activities

Invitation to Intl Security Exercise

- Which entities should participate (regional, national, backbone, or collaborative organizations)?
- Who should organize?
- When: I suggest late summer 2006
- Format: Baseline assessment, similar to the AbOSE reported here. Probably a distributed event, via video+voice+IM
- Goals: Some are obvious, additional thoughts?
- Pick a new name.. AbOSE is a horrible acronym...

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