

Evaluation Is Needed To Assure Requests For Additional Information Follow Least Privileged Principles

Organizations are increasingly implementing least privileged principles to reduce the risk of data breaches and other security incidents. Least privilege is a security principle that states that users should only be granted the minimum level of access necessary to perform their jobs. This helps to reduce the risk of unauthorized access to sensitive data, as users cannot access data that they do not need to do their jobs.

One challenge that organizations face when implementing least privileged principles is evaluating and approving requests for additional information beyond what is initially provided by requesters. These requests are often necessary to complete a task, but they can also introduce security risks if they are not properly evaluated.



FDA MEDICAL DEVICE REVIEWS: Evaluation is Needed to Assure Requests for Additional Information Follow a Least Burdensome Approach (GAO - DHHS) by Ram Charan

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The Risks of Poorly Evaluated Requests for Additional Information

There are several risks associated with poorly evaluated requests for additional information, including:

- **Unauthorized access to sensitive data:** If a request for additional information is not properly evaluated, it could give a user access to sensitive data that they do not need to do their job. This could lead to a data breach or other security incident.
- **Increased risk of phishing attacks:** Phishing attacks are often used to trick users into providing sensitive information. If a request for additional information is not properly evaluated, it could provide an attacker with an opportunity to trick a user into providing their credentials or other sensitive information.
- **Wasted time and resources:** Evaluating requests for additional information can be a time-consuming process. If requests are not properly evaluated, it can lead to wasted time and resources.

How to Evaluate Requests for Additional Information

To mitigate the risks associated with requests for additional information, organizations should implement a process for evaluating these requests. This process should include the following steps:

1. **Determine the need for the information:** The first step in evaluating a request for additional information is to determine whether the information is actually needed. This can be done by asking the requester why they need the information and how they will use it.

2. **Assess the risks of providing the information:** Once it has been determined that the information is needed, the next step is to assess the risks of providing the information. This can be done by considering the sensitivity of the information, the likelihood that it could be used for malicious purposes, and the potential impact of a data breach or other security incident.
3. **Make a decision:** Based on the need for the information and the risks of providing it, a decision should be made whether or not to grant the request. If the decision is made to grant the request, the next step is to determine how the information will be provided.
4. **Provide the information:** The information should be provided in a secure manner. This may involve using a secure file sharing service or encrypting the information before it is sent.
5. **Monitor the use of the information:** Once the information has been provided, it is important to monitor its use to ensure that it is not being used for malicious purposes.

Evaluating requests for additional information is a critical part of implementing least privileged principles. By following the steps outlined in this article, organizations can help to mitigate the risks associated with these requests and protect their sensitive data.



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