

## Deutsche Postbank AG

***“Sapphire performed with a high level of efficiency and professionalism throughout”***

Clarel Sookun, Asst Director - Head of IT

### Deutsche Postbank AG

Deutsche Postbank AG is the leading multichannel bank in the German market.

Postbank can boast a client base of over 14.6 million customers and is one of the largest retail banks in Germany employing over 23,000 people worldwide.

They are also one of Germany's major financial services providers. They focus on retail business with private customers. Postbank is also active in the corporate banking sector, with their UK offices based in London.

### A Security Driven Project

All sites of Deutsche Postbank AG are connected by the same integral network. Each country is responsible for maintaining the security of their own local network. This, along with rigorous tests of the main Postbank infrastructure, ensures the integrity and security of their business critical data. Needless to say security is a key issue for Deutsche Postbank AG. The business impact of a network security breach could be detrimental to both the reputation of the organisation and the day to day running of the business.

Their UK infrastructure is regularly tested for both internal and external vulnerabilities in the network. Regular testing provides the IT department with a good audit trail and assurance that their internal procedures are performing. Internally the IT department use LANguard among other tools and methods for their own penetration testing. Following CESG CHECK recommendations, Deutsche Postbank AG regularly use vulnerability assessment partners to benchmark their security infrastructure.

### The Solution Provider: Sapphire

Clarel Sookun, Head of IT for Postbank UK, reviewed several suppliers to provide an external vulnerability assessment of their local network.

***“We chose Sapphire having worked with them closely on various projects in the past” comments Clarel. “In addition to this they had an excellent portfolio for providing vulnerability assessments, including a CHECK Green Status Team Leader which was a very important factor for us.”***

Clarel Sookun, Asst Director - Head of IT

### The Scope

Sapphire was asked to carry out an assessment on a range of external IP addresses including, an ISP router, a content filtering solution, a firewall cluster, some firewalls and a proxy server.

Due to rigorous tests carried out periodically by Postbank staff the IT department already expected certain areas of concern to be highlighted. They hoped that the evaluation carried out by Sapphire would highlight these vulnerabilities in the network and provide additional assurance that the in-house testing was correct.

Deutsche Postbank AG required two reports at different levels. The first being a high level report aimed at management providing a business driven non-technical assessment of Deutsche Postbank AG's systems. The second report was a full technical report detailing the vulnerabilities and the recommendations to secure the systems for IT staff. Sapphire was also asked to give the findings of the assessment in a presentation to specific members of Postbank staff.



### The Assessment

Sapphire tested the external IP addresses as requested by Postbank UK. Throughout the project the test team exploited the main areas of concern for the customer: security, confidentiality, integrity and availability.

The external penetration test focused largely on the areas of vulnerability between the network and its connections to the Internet. Deutsche Postbank AG asked Sapphire to achieve three objectives:

1. Prove within a short period of time whether an intrusion could be achieved
2. Determine what an Internet located attacker could see of the Deutsche Postbank AG network and systems
3. Identify any weaknesses in the security system: email, unrestricted data flows, operating system and software, evaluate attack vulnerabilities of hosts on the network.

The assessment was reasonably straight forward with few discrepancies highlighted in the final report.

### Conclusion

The assessment met each of the objectives set by Deutsche Postbank at the onset and highlighted only one major problem. Sapphire proved to Postbank UK that the opportunities to penetrate their network via the Internet were minimal. The only threats that were highlighted were largely email-bourne due to an outdated content filtering solution in need of an update and therefore not achieving its full potential.

This had already been flagged in previous in-house assessments carried out by the IT team at Deutsche Postbank AG. Measures were already being taken to secure the infrastructure whilst the upgrade of the solution had been arranged.

Deutsche Postbank AG were delighted that only one area of concern was highlighted during the assessment. The integrity of the network and the in-house testing was proved and security measures met with Deutsche Postbank AG's expectations.

### Testimonials

***"Security is an important business requirement for Deutsche Postbank AG. It is a priority for us to protect the corporate data stored on our network be it our clients, our business partners or our own.***

***Deutsche Postbank AG recognise the importance of having independent organisations such as Sapphire use their own unique skills and expertise to carry out these assessments on our behalf.***

***Throughout the process Sapphire has given us 100% commitment to the project. The investigators working for Sapphire were thorough and competent in their analysis. The reports and presentations given at the end of the assessment were of the highest level. I would definitely use Sapphire again in the future."***

Clarel Sookun, Asst Director - Head of IT



For more information about Sapphire's vulnerability assessment service please contact [info@sapphire.net](mailto:info@sapphire.net) and quote 'Pen Test' in the subject header.

