



Financial Executives  
Year XV - July/04 - nº 162

## Proactive maintenance is the project's highlight



Nossa Caixa

Nossa Caixa Bank

By keeping its network fully secured in a proactive way, Nossa Caixa Bank S.A. was awarded as the best case in the Security category at the third edition of the e-Finance Awards, promoted by the Financial Executives (Executivos Financeiros) magazine. With the purpose of analyzing and measuring in advance the vulnerability of its network and web environment, the financial institution adhered to the conceptual market evolution and implemented the Modulo Risk Manager™, a tool capable of analyzing the risks in the data network operation, and pinpointing the best investments through the identification of security breaches and flaws.

The security process adopted by Nossa Caixa began in 1999, when the institution launched its Internet Banking, and started to support web operations, making data and transactions available on-line. Technology left the environment vulnerable to attacks to the database, what demanded more attention by the IT department. In 2000, the bank hired Modulo integrator to implement a risk analysis solution, to see the network's vulnerability, while pinpointing the attack risks and security flaws. Different from an analysis of vulnerabilities, the risk analysis handles the exploration of potential breaches and their impact on the business, taking into account elements such as event, probability and consequence.

Once it was defined that the tool should meet monitoring and proactivity specifications in terms of security, the whole service was focused and structured to meet the needs of the bank. For that, analyzed with the team of Nossa Caixa Bank the critical assets of the institution, ascertaining the customer's needs, and meeting the standards set by the Brazilian and Basle Central Banks. To analyze the security breaches was one of the main pillars to define the tool. "It was necessary to identify the network's fragilities to see how defects were affecting the course of business",

explains William Alevate, business executive at Modulo. The solution adopted was the Modulo Risk Manager, a tool for uninterrupted security monitoring of data and web networks.

The implementation of the tool took approximately 120 days, with a specialized Modulo team for customization and definition of rules. For an effective and precise monitoring, the Modulo Risk Manager must be configured with a series of parameters before installation. For increased tune-up and adjustments in the analysis and security rules, Nossa Caixa Bank constantly updates its information. "Modulo Risk Manager has a list with a huge number of security procedures. The solution is already implemented, but its customization is still underway", explains José Waldir P. de Carvalho, IT security manager at Nossa Caixa Bank. According to him, the institution already had a protection system against network attacks, however one couldn't identify vulnerabilities with it.

Actual visibility is another advantage of the solution mentioned by Carvalho, from Nossa Caixa. "Besides pinpointing where they are, and how the security flaws are like, the tool prospects the future to continuously keeping the environment safe against new vulnerabilities", states the manager, concluding that this method provides for a safe and very dynamic site. "Modulo Risk Manager allows that scans for security breaches are made in a totally automatic way, without human assistance", he adds.

Besides analyzing and pinpointing breaches, the Modulo Risk Manager can correct vulnerabilities, what is a great advantage for the bank. "The resources and warranty of secure access allow the

bank to structure its activities for new business, and forecast a larger growth. In other words, the bank can focus all efforts in its core business", emphasizes Alevate from Modulo. The tool generates a security process in the institution, involving the IT, business, and auditing areas, what generates improvements in productivity and performance, since the activities are very well defined.



Elizabeth Keiko Osaki and Daniel Edelmut, from Nossa Caixa

By implementing the Modulo Risk Manager, Nossa Caixa Bank has a solid security administration within the internet scenario, and efficient, proactive monitoring against attacks. "It is fundamental for a bank site to offer a 100% safe environment. Above all, it's an obligation of the financial institution to care about the security of all data and financial transactions, particularly when they are presented in a high-risk environment", Carvalho says. The use of this tool also allowed the institution to analyze a heterogeneous environment, to support security planning, and generate reports for the executive body. It is a strategic software package for the Information Security administration. The charts presented are extremely important to make the senior management aware, and to justify the resources and needs of the area", states Carvalho from Nossa Caixa.