Six Steps to a Secure Signaling Network

The world's telecom signaling networks are being exploited, threatening the safety of subscribers everywhere. Now is the time to ensure your signaling network is both secure and resilient.

Our industry's model of trust has been broken, and we must now treat every interconnect partner as if they are untrusted. The best way to prevent unauthorized access to the control plane of your network is to implement access control and firewall functionality at the core of your signaling platform.

There are several ways to approach that implementation, but the best method is by taking a systematic approach, executed in six simple steps:

1 Deny messages except those that must be received across the interface.

2 Only allow access to messages that have come from a known entity at the interconnect.

3 Combine the filtering origination address with the international mobile subscriber identity for checks relating to specific operations for inbound roamers that are expected from their respective home networks.

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4 Remember that the integrity of every interconnect cannot be guaranteed. They must therefore be monitored, not only to identify new threats but also to keep trusted interconnects honest.

5 Be cautious of implementations created using fuzzy logic. Adding overhead in message processing with no guarantee of accuracy and providing a false sense of security causes more problems than it solves.

6 Always be aware of the network agreements and network routing functions you have in place before applying policies that will restrict the traffic.

By following these six steps, you can gain a strong level of network security while ensuring that as your network evolves and grows, the policies you have in place will remain both effective and manageable.

Want to keep your network fast, scalable, and secure? Visit the **Oracle Communications website** now to find out how we can help.

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