

Re: Opening port 80&443 not only opens OWA but also Companyweb access?

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- *From:* MSR Consulting SBS Support <support@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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What's amazing to me, is that the statement "Can we simply agree that that is your opinion and therefore should not be stated as fact?" seems to be so difficult for some of you?.

Do you really believe that you've somehow cornered the market on the multitude of usages of SBS that you can factually make statements on this issue with the words 'never', etc.? I thought I made it clear I had no desire for a debate? I also think it's pretty clear that if the manufacturer of the product that you service decides that if you want to use port 80 that it's ok with them, but you disagree, that it must be a matter of opinion....(otherwise no disagreement right?).

You seem to believe that *I* think it's a good practice to leave open 80 if you don't need it. I don't.

That doesn't change the fact that it's our *opinion*. The reason *we* as a community (as far as I know) don't think it's a good idea is the simple fact that it's easier to attract attention with port 80 open. Although, I guess someone could argue that since many port scans these days *start* on 443 to try and find commerce sites, that that point is debatable. That said, I also don't believe that there is anything inherently insecure about leaving the default SBS config on port 80, nor do I believe that putting a redirect on an ISP site helps one bit (it still attracts the same attention, and any scan utilizing dns records, will simply follow the ports to the IP they reside at. Not sure what it gains you in the long run.)

Now perhaps you guys are more arrogant than I am in regards to your opinions, but unless you're prepared to say that IIS is simply insecure in its own right, and therefore RWW, and anything else you choose to run through it should be shutdown, I can't truthfully tell a client anything other than "*I believe* it could attract unnecessary attention to your box, and therefore increase your likelihood of attacks". I can't say that it increases the hackers likelihood of *success*, nor can I say that if they are willing to still do so after being advised that they are idiots. If they're informed, I'll happily open it up.

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If you can show me however where the SBS config for redirect on port 80 can be more easily hacked into than 443 then by all means do so and I'll advise my clients (and Microsoft, since it's in all their documentation) to that effect. Until then, yes, I say it is our OPINION and should not be stated as some sort of fact nor should we treat others who choose to do so as somehow unintelligent about the so-called 'facts' unless you're willing to back that up. In the end, ports are ports. I don't like 80 simply because it's so common, that has nothing to do with making it insecure however, I'd just prefer not to announce my presence so loudly that others might take notice. It's *after* they take notice that you have to worry about ports...and 80 typically isn't the one to worry about. I'd start with POP, IMAP, etc. personally but you do what you want.

If you want to advise others here about the potential risks of doing so on the other hand, awesome, that's a welcome service to all. Why it is that it appears to offend some of you that someone might not agree with your opinion is beyond me.

p.s. – it appears no matter how hard I tried to avoid a debate here, it's impossible amongst us geeks. think about what I asked in my post, and then look at the responses. And here I thought 'proportional response' was something only discussed in the circles of warfare

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admin

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