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Three Companies To Watch In Cybersecurity

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Cybersecurity is a hot topic these days on many fronts. Hacks related to SolarWinds, in an ironic twist, exposed FireEye, considered a perennial security provider. The Colonial Pipeline hack also raised significant concerns. As a result, the Biden administration issued an executive order in May and an additional memorandum in late July that aims to provide guidelines for addressing the growing threat of bad actors.

Amidst it all, there has been a flood of both startups and well-established companies that are vying to address the security needs of local, state, and federal governmental agencies, educational institutions, healthcare providers, online and brick and mortar retailers and others. There are three cybersecurity companies that I find particularly intriguing right now, and I wanted to share my insights into their respective strategies

Airgap Networks

At Black Hat USA 2021 this week, Airgap launched the general availability of its security platform after approximately one and a half years of product development. The company seeks to address what it perceives as three fundamental networking infrastructure flaws making organizations vulnerable to ransomware attacks:

1. lateral threat movement over shared VLANs,

2. lack of identity and intent checking with static firewall policies, and

3. the need to identify a more sophisticated way of managing ransomware attacks short of the blunt approach of shutting down networks.

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Airgap aims to solve these challenges by ringfencing every endpoint, applying multi-factor authentication everywhere and delivering a rapid, targeted response with its Ransomware Kill Switch feature. Likened to the United States' DEFCON readiness status, Airgap defines ransomware postures green, yellow, orange and red. Each delivers a set of responses appropriate for the corresponding threat level. Company executives recently took me through a demo on its corporate network, and I found the dashboard to be highly intuitive and easy to manage.

My hot take:

Founder and CEO Ritesh Agrawal brings tremendous credibility to Airgap, having spent several years at Juniper Networks in senior roles leading switching and security. I left the conversation convinced that he clearly understands the challenges enterprises and service providers face in securing networks. I also believe that the Airgap Ransomware Kill Switch feature is potentially a game-changer if it delivers on its promise of networked device scalability.

Wrapping up

Regardless of an organization's size or industry, cybersecurity management is a challenging endeavor. Threats are constantly changing and hackers are becoming more sophisticated in their efforts. Each of these companies shows tremendous promise in the ongoing cybersecurity battle.

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