



# Habits of Highly Effective WAF

Web Application Firewall

Web application firewalls have been a critical part of securing external facing websites.

Organizations need to ensure that they deploy WAFs to ensure agile application layer protections. As network elements are unable to provide

broad coverage for application layer issues, WAFs have become mandatory with the end security posture in mind.

This illustration helps you understand what you should be looking for in a WAF.

1

## BE PROACTIVE



Key Paradigms According to COVEY

**I am responsible for my behaviour and the choices I make in life**



Key Application Security Paradigms

**Vendor must provide WAF-as-a-Service, accept the responsibility of making WAF work for the customer, refine it as needed, and develop proactive defence mechanisms.**

2

## BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND



Key Paradigms According to COVEY

**I will create results mentally before beginning any activity**



Key Application Security Paradigms

**WAF vendor must configure the WAF rule-set to ensure minimal false alerts, goal must be to improve security posture without degradation of user experience**

3

## PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST



Key Paradigms According to COVEY

**Focus on Truly important and say no to unimportant**



Key Application Security Paradigms

**Protecting against Critical known issues - Effective virtual patching - should be first priority of WAF deployments**

4

## THINK WIN-WIN



Key Paradigms According to COVEY

**Effective, long-term relationships require mutual benefit**



Key Application Security Paradigms

**WAFs need to be able to demonstrate ROI while improving security posture of the application**

5

## SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND THEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD



Key Paradigms According to COVEY

**Diagnosis must precede prescription**



Key Application Security Paradigms

**Ability to provide detail forensics, logging any suspicious activities and providing enhancements based on application nuances is key feature of WAF core rule set improvement**

6

## SYNERGIZE



Key Paradigms According to COVEY

**The whole is greater than the sum of parts**



Key Application Security Paradigms

**WAFs must be leveraged to develop a total application security posture, combine deployments of WAFs along with application scanning and secure coding practices to get a holistic application security program.**

7

## SHARPEN THE SAW



Key Paradigms According to COVEY

**Results require constant improvement/development of resources**



Key Application Security Paradigms

**Constant update and monitoring of WAF Core Rules sets, getting intimate with application and user behaviour via forensics on legal/suspicious/illegal user actions**

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