

Pharmaceutical Company Discovers Gaps and Improves Security through In-Depth Assessment

It's not enough to know your environment may be vulnerable - you must know where weaknesses lie, and how to fix them.

A large pharmaceutical company is responsible for sensitive information assets and must maintain strict compliance requirements. Because the company works in all phases of prescription drug creation, including research, design and manufacturing, it is vital that all data remain secure. Any form of a data breach could result in reputation damage, financial loss and stolen intellectual property.

The company needed a trusted partner to perform an in-depth security assessment of its information technology assets to gain a high-level view of environment security and identify vulnerabilities.

What was the best way to approach this challenge?

- Perform an external penetration test, including a security assessment of technology assets to identify vulnerabilities and meet compliance requirements.
- Test current network protection around intellectual property, sales numbers and financial information.
- Provide the client with detailed information about the effectiveness of current security measures.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Organization Size:
Approximately 1,000
employees
Organization Industry:

A pharmaceutical company

Challenge:
To remain compliant with
internal requirements,
the organization needed
to complete an external
penetration test and
assessment.

IMPACT

- Continued compliance with internal requirements
- Received recommendations to remediate issues
- Made aware of previously unrecognized vulnerabilities
- Knowledge transfer from consultants

SECURITY ASSESSMENT SERVICES:

Identifying Areas of Weakness



Information Gathering

To start, Dscifer performed “blind” data gathering, or research of publicly available information about the company. By gathering this public information, Dscifer now had the same level of company knowledge that an attacker could legally access.



Testing

Using this data, the team identified a list of potential attack scenarios. Then they performed a vulnerability analysis asset test and focused penetration testing. During this phase, Dscifer worked as a hacker, performing network vulnerability exploitation, network monitoring, system pivoting, custom scripting, privilege escalation and proof of concept exploitation.



Analysis

After all testing was complete, Dscifer met with the client to discuss the project activities, attack scenarios, findings and recommendations.

Learning Best Practices and Protecting Assets

Dscifer consultants showed the company’s team exactly how an attacker might infiltrate their environment. The company cited a high level of professionalism and technical knowledge as a valuable benefit and described Dscifer’s consultants as “special forces.” As a result of the project, the client:

- Identified previously unknown security issues that could have led to a breach.
- Received specific recommendations for improving security.
- Met internal compliance requirements.
- Allowed its security team to remain focused on future projects and business goals.



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