

Threat Experts Enhance Vulnerability Scans

A large financial services firm consolidated three different vulnerability management platforms with a comprehensive solution backed by threat intelligence from Secureworks.



Anyone searching the keywords “financial services” and “cybercrime” will find that their results, even coming from many diverse sources, point to one conclusion: the financial services industry is a top target for sophisticated hackers.

Of course, that’s a small wonder. As the once-famous, Depression-era bank robber Willie Sutton said about why he targeted banks, “It’s where the money is.”

But the problem of cybercrime for the industry seems only to grow. In fact, a 2017 Accenture study reported that cybercrime’s annualized cost to financial services firms rose 40 percent in the prior three years to \$18.3 million—more

than the \$11.7 million average cost reported by respondents spanning 14 other industries.¹

This trend, plus the severe reputational risk that a security breach can bring, led one large provider of services to merchants, banks and corporations to engage Secureworks® for Managed Security Services, plus many others.

Other services include: Advanced Malware Protection and Detection; Advanced Managed Next Gen Firewall; Secureworks Counter Threat Platform™; Threat Intelligent Support; Security Residency and Implementation; and Threat Intelligence Attacker Database.

Company:

Financial Services Provider

Industry:

Banking & Financial Services

Country: Not Specified

Business Need

After consolidating from three separate vulnerability management platforms, each for a different region, this large financial services provider first deployed a VMS solution, but lacked the resources to manage and interpret the scans as well as to prioritize remediation.

Solution

The company improved its overall defense posture by fortifying its defenses with the comprehensive scanning capabilities Secureworks Vulnerability Management Service (VMS) Platinum with Qualys®, enhanced with threat intelligence from experts at the Secureworks Center of Excellence SCoE in Romania.

Business Benefits

- Finds security weaknesses before they are exploited
- Combines threat intelligence with vulnerability scanning
- Helps prioritize vulnerabilities for remediation
- Improves security visibility with periodic reporting
- Facilitates PCI compliance
- Reinforces risk posture, safeguarding reputation

CASE STUDY

Growing Threats on an Expanding Attack Surface

The reason the company turned to Secureworks is that it realized its IT staff was limited in both personnel numbers and skills to deal with a rising tide of threats that includes ever-greater sophistication and frequency. According to the same 2017 Accenture study, the average number of breaches suffered by financial services firms more than tripled—from 40 to 125—since 2012.

In addition, the company was growing via acquisitions. This not only expanded its attack surface but also meant that each acquisition brought potential but unknown vulnerabilities.

However, despite the substantial reinforcement of its defenses by the many Secureworks services it had deployed, the company still operated three separate vulnerability scanning management service (VMS) platforms, each serving a different operating region.

After a sweeping review of all the company's cyber defenses as part of a drive to further enhance security, the chief security officer (CSO) decided that these platforms, artifacts from a less centralized era of the company's history, needed consolidation.

First VMS Consolidation Attempt Fails

This project was conducted separately inside the company, and the team in charge chose to deploy a VMS solution, which was riding a wave of industry popularity at the time. They also didn't choose a Secureworks VMS solution, because the latter was not at the time within the scope of the Secureworks engagement.

As it turned out, the previous VMS solution didn't meet the company's needs as hoped. Some promised functionality didn't materialize. Also, the security team thought the VMS solution would be easy to setup and run by one person, but that wasn't the case.

What's more, the team lacked the expertise and threat intelligence to interpret the implications provided by the scans and, sometimes, were uncertain if the scans were even being run. They also needed guidance on how to prioritize their vulnerabilities, so they could know which ones were the greatest threats and needed remediation most quickly before a breach occurred.

At this point, the CSO turned to Secureworks and evaluated the following three Secureworks VMS options, all featuring cloud-based scanning protection from Qualys, a PCI SSC-certified software vendor:

- **VMS Bronze.** This Secureworks VMS offering features the Qualys vulnerability manager that protects premise-based IT assets as well as those in the cloud and mobile devices. Secureworks helps set up its scanning and reporting functions, while also providing fee-based consulting, if assistance or threat intelligence is required. After set-up, this services is 100 percent managed by the customer.
- **VMS Gold.** This Secureworks VMS offering provides the Qualys protection, plus set up, of the Bronze option. It then adds the availability of Secureworks experts as well as proactive threat intelligence drawn from the Secureworks Counter Threat Platform (CTP), which compiles a database of threats happening globally in real-time from more than 4,000 Secureworks clients around

Secureworks Products & Services

- [Advanced Malware Protection and Detection](#)
- [Advanced Managed Next Gen Firewall](#)
- [Secureworks Counter Threat Platform™](#)
- [Threat Intelligence Support](#)
- [Managed Security Services](#)
- [Security Residency and Implementation](#)
- [Threat Intelligence Attacker Database](#)
- [Vulnerability Management Service \(VMS\) Platinum](#)

CASE STUDY

the world. After set-up, this services is co-managed percent managed by the customer and Secureworks. If necessary, Secureworks can provide an escalation path inside Qualys.

- **VMS Platinum.** This Secureworks VMS offering delivers all the features and capabilities of the Bronze and Gold options, plus it's 100 percent managed by experts from the Secureworks Center of Excellence (SCoE) in Romania. The SCoE staff consists of scores of the world's leading cybersecurity experts. Supported by immediate access to the CTP; they conduct, read, interpret and report on vulnerability scans, enhancing their reports with 24x7 analysis of threat intelligence. They also prioritize which vulnerabilities should be addressed first.

To replace its VMS consolidation platform, the company chose the Secureworks VMS Platinum service, complementing its many other Secureworks managed services. In effect, this option adds the deep security expertise of the Secureworks SCoE to the company's IT staff capabilities.

Building Customer Trust

The SCoE team eliminates all guesswork from the periodic reporting of vulnerability scanning's findings and advises the company on their severity. If new threats emerge, on-demand scans can be conducted and their results analyzed for actionable recommendations. In addition, the Secureworks VMS Platinum service helps the company comply with PCI DSS requirements. Its reports provide direct PCI scanning compliance attestation, too.

Today, with the addition of the Secureworks VMS Platinum service to its broad range of other Secureworks services, the financial services company is confident that its layered, defense-in-depth cyber safeguards are in place, always updated and fully monitored 24x7 by some of the world's top cybersecurity experts. On top of that, the company's merchant, banking and corporate customers can share in that confidence, too, and know that their data assets, including those of their customers, are safe against threats.

Source:

¹ "2017 Cost of Cybercrime Study" by Accenture and Ponemon Institute. <https://www.accenture.com/us-en/insight-cost-of-cybercrime-2017>

About Secureworks

Secureworks® (NASDAQ: SCWX) is a leading global cybersecurity company that protects organizations in the digitally connected world. We combine visibility from thousands of clients, aggregate and analyze data from any source, anywhere, to prevent security breaches, detect malicious activity in real time, respond rapidly, and predict emerging threats. We offer our clients a cyber-defense that is Collectively Smarter. Exponentially Safer.™



For more information, call **1-877-838-7947** to speak to a Secureworks security specialist. secureworks.com