360 IS

Success Stories

Financial Services

Security Assessment

Infrastructure Penetration Testing

The Client

Our client is a UK head quartered financial services company, providing corporate, government and institutional clients with solutions to their strategic advisory, financing and risk management needs. The organisation employs over 10000 staff.

The Requirement

Upon advice from their external auditors the client had recently consolidated its IT security staff from several disparate teams into one central body reporting to risk management. The client had appointed a new head of IT Security from outside the company to manage this team and address some of the cultural and political barriers to success that had existed before.

Upon arrival, the new IT Security Director found the public-facing infrastructure had not been independently tested for some time, and had previously been managed in a reactive manner by several different security teams scattered around the organisation.

The new IT Security Director needed to quickly identify any urgent improvements to the public facing networks and prioritise non-urgent remediation work within the context of his teams current activities.

Three Sixty was retained to perform a detailed Security Assessment of the in-place infrastructure from a non-privileged starting point, and to present the findings in a report and briefing session with Q&A at the clients office.

Project Goals

- Determine vulnerabilities in public-facing systems
- Establish a baseline from which to improve
- Obtain data supporting request for budget to tackle problems
- Inform the resource allocation plan for the security team
- Establish metrics for incremental improvement and KPIs

The Findings

The detailed assessment reported approximately 30 findings of note which were characterised by 360is proprietary 4-way reporting system, ranked for priority, and charted for managers.

In common with most assessments of external infrastructure,

several servers were found to have inconsistent, flawed configurations. This reflected the differing approaches of the various IT teams responsible for them. Sensitive information had been left on one development server in the form of a database containing records from a production system.

A Firewall rulebase was found to be out of date, with several rules for services which were no-longer required and should have been purged. The Firewall was configured on the advice of the vendor with a reflexive ACL, which was easily subverted allowing an attacker to deny service to the corporate network.

These shortcomings led to a compromise of perimeter security and presented opportunity for a hacker to capture credentials and proceed to attack the internal private network.

Success Stories

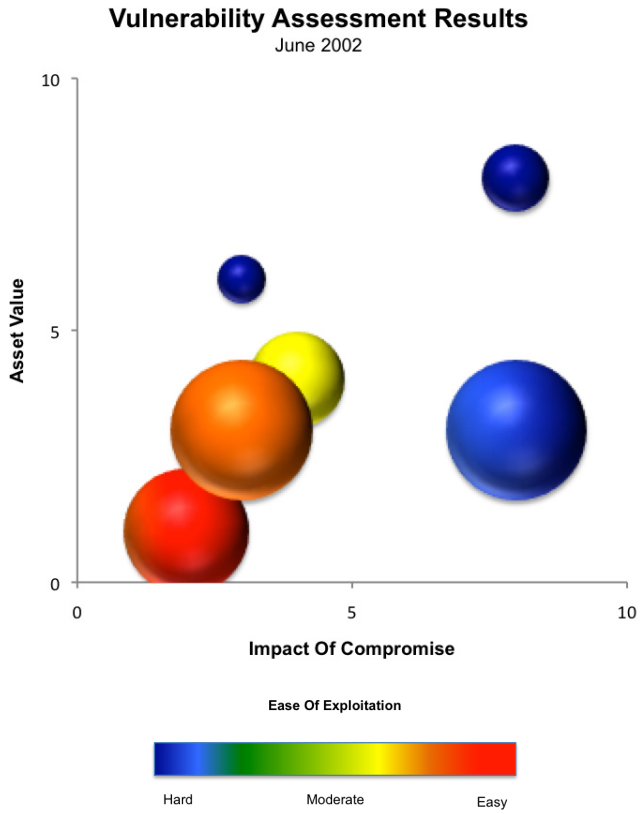
The Business Benefits

Accelerated Delivery. The engagement commenced within 5 days and delivered within 15 days of order including the client briefing and Q&A session. Results were delivered on-time, on-budget, allowing the next phase of the project to proceed.

Neutrality. Our findings were immediately accepted without fuss by all parties concerned, something which would be have been impossible to achieve within the IT organisations culture without the use of an external assessor.

Non disruptive. During the assessment there was no disruption to systems and no impact on the day-to-day work of the IT Security department. Staff who were already busy, could get on with their jobs.

Increased Assurance. Our security consultants were there at the beginning. They have been practising since the early 90's where they ran security for one of the worlds largest ISPs and secured Internet Access for many of the Times Top 100 companies. This long experience offered the client increased assurance over the alternative, using automated testing software or less experienced consultants.



The Value Of 360is

The client was already aware of the benefits of a security assessment before engaging with 360is. The specific value of 360is was:

- Highly experienced, independent, technical assessment.
- A viewpoint outside company politics & culture.
- Concise, actionable, prioritised findings.
- Report for Directors, Managers, and Technical staff.
- Result benchmarked against industry peers for comparison.

Our experience and deliverable enabled the client to meet his project goals and subsequently a number of his first quarter objectives after taking over a new team that had not worked together before.

One Year On

Over 12 months our client used the report to improve his security posture and audited position from within the top 30% of their industry peers to within the top 10%. Maintaining perimeter security requires less resources than before and has changed from a largely reactive activity to a proactive one. IT Security has a better profile and working relationship within the business and there are no problems supplying compliance with the information they need. The net result of all of this, is that there are fewer security incidents now than before.

""360is delivered a detailed assessment, developed prioritised action items and helped us mitigate risks we did not have the resources to fix ourselves. The work was of tremendous value."

IT Security Director

Switchboard: **+44 (0)208 133 6049** Sales: **+44 (0)208 123 1740** Facsimile: **+44 (0)870 1340991** E-mail: **info@360is.com** Website: **www.360is.com**
360 Information Security Ltd. Company Registration Number: 4374942 VAT Registration Number: 776 6209 94