

CORE IMPACT CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

SOLUTION SUMMARY

CUSTOMER TYPE | Healthcare

CHALLENGE | Cost-effectively and efficiently comply with HIPAA's security requirements.

SOLUTION | CORE IMPACT, the first comprehensive penetration testing solution for assessing specific information security threats to an organization.

THE COMPANY

CARE NEW ENGLAND Health System

CARE NEW ENGLAND

Care New England Health System is comprised of five leading healthcare providers that have a long-standing involvement and reputation in community health, teaching and research. Member organizations of Care New England include Butler Hospital, Kent Hospital, Women & Infants Hospital, Care New England Home Health, and Care New England Wellness Centers. Together, these organizations offer a comprehensive array of services focused on meeting the healthcare needs of their patients and communities. And they continue to develop innovative services to improve the health and well-being of the people and communities they serve.

"The CORE IMPACT rapid penetration test saved us considerable time and money. It would have taken someone three weeks of work every quarter to do what CORE IMPACT did in just a few hours."

Larry Pesce
Security Specialist
Care New England Health System

THE CHALLENGE

HIPAA legislation now determines the way that healthcare institutions must implement, monitor and audit the security that is employed to protect information stored on their computer networks. In most cases, these organizations are required to implement new information security policies and procedures and to deploy new products in order to bring themselves into regulatory compliance. At Care New England, every aspect of the HIPAA compliance process, from the initial assessment to the final implementation is the responsibility of Security Specialist, Larry Pesce.

Pesce's first step in determining where Care New England stood in relation to HIPAA compliance was to have a gap analysis of his computer network conducted. This review took all the applicable rules and regulations from HIPAA and applied them to Care New England's security policies and procedures. After a lengthy review, it was determined that the security mechanisms currently in place would not satisfy all aspects of the HIPAA regulation. One of the major recommendations to come out of this analysis was to begin performing security audits of the Care New England IT network. Pesce knew the only way get the audit results he needed would be to start performing regular penetration testing. From his experience, he knew that this form of testing would give him the most accurate view of his network and provide him with the precise audit information he would need to satisfy his legislative requirements.

Pesce had done some limited, manual penetration testing at Care New England in the past. However, he recalled that the manual penetration testing process had significant drawbacks. "Manual testing placed a tremendous strain on my limited budget and resources. It was time-consuming to write exploits, ensure they were safe to run, perform the attacks and update and manage the process. Then, after all that, I had to manually create volumes of reports to back up what I did."

However, Pesce now needed to be able to conduct penetration testing as a permanent part of his ongoing IT security process. "What I wanted to do and what I could afford to do were two different things. I didn't have the manpower to integrate regular penetration testing into our security strategy and I couldn't afford to hire expensive consultants." The challenge was to find a cost-effective, easy-to-use product with automated reporting capabilities that allowed him to perform regular penetration testing.

"By proactively testing our network with CORE IMPACT we discovered and fixed a potential help desk and IP telephony problem that could have been very detrimental to how we service our customers. If we didn't have CORE IMPACT, it would have been a significant amount of time before the problem was identified."

THE SOLUTION

Ultimately, Care New England turned to Core Security Technologies and selected its product, CORE IMPACT, the first comprehensive penetration testing product for assessing specific information security threats to an organization. The product enabled them to replace the inconsistent, manual penetration testing tools they had previously used with a professional, state-of-the-art, automated penetration testing product.

CORE IMPACT allowed Pesce to safely exploit vulnerabilities in his network, replicating the kinds of access an intruder could achieve, and proving actual paths of attacks that needed to be eliminated. By automating the previously manual and expensive penetration testing process, CORE IMPACT helped improve Care New England's security while reducing costs.

"Thanks to CORE IMPACT our network is now significantly more resilient and more secure."

THE RESULT

According to Pesce, the results with CORE IMPACT were dramatic and immediate. "The product was so easy to use. We could now run a test and then compare the results to a previous test. The detailed history and findings reports provided by CORE IMPACT helped me comply with several audit requirements of HIPAA."

By using CORE IMPACT, Pesce was also able to evaluate and test the effectiveness of his IDS and IPS solutions by safely launching real-world intrusion events. "IMPACT helped me determine if my security expenditures were a good use of my budget. By testing the security of our network, we were able to determine what security procedures and products were doing their job and protecting us. We were also able to find out what areas could be improved."

Furthermore, Pesce was able to prioritize his team's remediation work and eliminate wasted efforts on false positive results from other security products. CORE IMPACT helped Pesce determine if a vulnerability had any real impact on their corporate information assets.