

Case Study: Cambridgeshire Police

The Challenge

As part of the continuing assessment of the security levels of their Network, Cambridgeshire Police were interested in carrying out both internal and external testing to ensure the high levels of network security enforced at Cambridgeshire Police were being maintained.



Creating a safer Cambridgeshire

Although recent spot security assessments have been undertaken in the past, Cambridgeshire Police has not undertaken a systematic review of security across the corporate network for two years. Cambridgeshire Police understand the necessity to have regular testing of their IT systems on a regular basis especially due to the nature of change and growth experienced on such a network. CESA Check Scheme, ISO17799/ BS7799 and NPIA guidelines recommend regular security assessment and testing.

The Project

CNS proposed a multi-phase assessment project on the WAN. The elements of the project would take the form of a matrix of assessment activities and locations. The key assessment activities would include a mixture of privileged and unprivileged, internal and external testing, as follows: - internal and external penetration testing, internal security auditing and an architecture & configuration review. The solution is intended to offer a balanced mix of privileged and unprivileged testing as Convergent has found that this offers a useful check and balance and ensures a more complete view of potential vulnerabilities.

The mixture of testing types ensures a complete view of network security. Unprivileged internal and external testing allows us to get a 'hacker's eye' view of the network, and ensures that we can target the obvious vulnerabilities that a malicious attacker might uncover. Privileged testing, architecture reviews & configuration reviews ensure that any underlying issues are uncovered, and that a complete view of potential vulnerabilities is gained. Note that the proposal does not include full forensic assessment of the network, and it does not include social engineering activities.

Public Perception

Cambridgeshire Police, like any public sector organisation, has to consider carefully how it spends taxpayer's money and Convergent were able to bring the project in on time and to budget.

The Results

Using its consultative approach, CNS were able to provide a comprehensive testing plan that highlighted a number of unknown security issues that Cambridgeshire have been able to resolve with immediate effect, thereby securing the network by a number of degrees.

CNS's work resulted in Cambridgeshire Police securing the required emergency funding for improvements to their network which in turn will allow them to progress towards NPIA regulations.

Andy Cole, Force Information Security Officer, Cambridgeshire Police commented, "In Convergent Network Solutions we found a business partner that provides a top quality package in terms of reasonable prices, technical expertise, flexibility and critically, the ability to interact with and complement the work of our own technical staff – all delivered on time and in a completely professional manner."

About Convergent Network Solutions

CNS is a specialist security and networking consultancy, established in the City of London in 1999. The company is wholly owned by its employees and directors. CNS has built an excellent reputation for information security & networking consultancy & services to our customers across a variety of sectors on a global scale. CNS's customers vary in size from FTSE 100 and large public sector organisations to SMEs, but are united in the importance of digital information to their business, and in their desire for pragmatic, knowledgeable help in securing their systems and data, and in meeting their connectivity requirements.

Contact Details

For further information or to arrange interviews, please contact:
Shannon Simpson, Sales & Marketing Director, CNS
Tel: 020 7213 0999 Email: Shannon.simpson@cnsuk.co.uk

