



Integrating Mainframe Scanning with Penetration Testing



Challenge

This global bank needed to have a more streamlined and unified approach to security. Over the years, the bank relied on KRI (now a part of Rocket Software, Inc.) to perform mainframe vulnerability assessments. The Operations Director recognized they could improve the approach by moving these crucial tasks to the internal penetration testing team.

As with any change, challenges emerge. The penetration team was well-versed in network and PC scanning methodologies but lacked experience in efficiently scanning the mainframe. Shifting such critical responsibilities to a new team presented additional hurdles for implementation. The bank needed to ensure that their penetration testers were educated on the intricacies of the mainframe and equipped with the knowledge, resources, and tools necessary to take on this exciting new responsibility.

Solution

To tackle the challenge of educating its penetration testers, the bank took an innovative approach. They identified talented systems programmers within the organization and enlisted their support in the education process - covering both mainframe operating system fundamentals, as well as specific vulnerability testing procedures and mitigation processes. These experienced programmers became mentors and trainers for the penetration testing team, imparting their knowledge of mainframe operating system fundamentals and specific vulnerability testing procedures and mitigation processes.


During the training program, the bank partnered with Rocket Software and relied on their expertise to establish a comprehensive six-month training program. The bank's programmers-turned-testers had the incredible opportunity to receive hands-on training. Rocket Software provided a solid foundation of support throughout the knowledge transfer of mainframe security vulnerability scanning, ensuring that any critical questions or challenges were addressed promptly. With their newfound expertise, the penetration testing team went on to exceed expectations. They seamlessly set up automatic vulnerability scanning schedules within the Rocket Software solution, ensuring that the bank's mainframe security was continuously monitored and protected.

The Challenge

The bank needed a way to shift its mainframe vulnerability scanning tasks to its penetration testing team.

The Solution

The bank recruited their systems programmers to take on a new role, providing standardized reporting and deeper training on mainframe vulnerabilities leveraging the Rocket Software solution.



Getting our penetration testers up to speed on the mainframe seemed like a tall task at the beginning, but it was well worth the time and effort we put into this integration. And, our company is much more secure for it.”

Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)

Results

Right from the start, Rocket Software played a pivotal role in guiding the transition process. The penetration testing team received unwavering support at every step, empowering them to confidently take on their new responsibilities.

Despite their PC-based background, the bank’s network penetration testing team is now capable of running automatic mainframe vulnerability checks on z/Assure® VAP, fully assuming responsibility for scanning of the firm’s mainframe systems for vulnerabilities.

Thanks to this transformative collaboration, the organization achieved remarkable results.

Impact

Automated Processes

With the right training and software, penetration testers were able to set up automatic vulnerability scanning schedules and automated checks.

Improved Testing

Penetration testers were now capable of analyzing vulnerability reports and work with vendors to mitigate vulnerabilities, increasing the bank’s security.

Operational Efficiency

With vulnerability scanning shifted to the penetration tester, mainframe operations teams were free to handle more pressing tasks.

The future won’t wait—modernize today.

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