SKYBOX® SECURITY

Case Study

Energy company detects 3X more vulnerabilities

Skybox Vulnerability Control increases speed, accuracy and efficiency of vulnerability assessment

Customer profile

+ Energy company

+ $13B in revenue

+ Headquartered in Argentina

+ Exploration, refinement, production, transportation, and sales of oil and petroleum products.

Business value

+ Accuracy rates close to 100%

+ 3X more vulnerabilities detected than traditional methods with scanning

Challenges

+ Lack of network visibility and access to accurate and timely vulnerability data

+ Network disruptions caused by active scanning

+ High false positivity rates

Results

+ Automated prioritization of highest risk vulnerabilities

+ Increased efficiency through identification of optimal remediation options

+ Faster and more accurate elimination of attack vectors

Solution

Skybox Vulnerability Control provides organizations with the full context of their attack surface to find where they are exposed to cyber-attacks, quantify the risks of exploitation, prioritize vulnerabilities and provide optimal remediation options.

Increased spotlight on OT vulnerabilities

Skybox Research Lab found Operational Technology (OT) vulnerabilities increased by 30% year-over-year. As OT vendors publicly report vulnerabilities more proactively, this trend opens up considerable opportunity for threat actors.[1]

Objectives

The company had relied on traditional scanning to assess vulnerabilities for years, but there were limitations. Scanning across the network infrastructure was a complex problem. It was not feasible to scan some network segments regularly, so scans occurred sporadically and infrequently. In addition, the scanning process disrupted network operations and delivered high false positive rates, leaving the IT security team wondering how to prioritize risk and remediation.

Traditional vulnerability assessment was not working, and the organization was looking for an alternative solution that wouldn't disrupt the network. The IT security team needed total network visibility and more accurate and timely vulnerability assessments.

Approach

The organization implemented Skybox® Vulnerability Control to mature their vulnerability management program. With Skybox, the organization could continuously monitor both network changes and vulnerabilities across the entire network. This empowered the IT security team to determine when network changes would expose vulnerabilities and potential exploits. Equally important, the solution automated risk assessment, and prioritized remediation of vulnerabilities that posed the greatest risk to the organization.

Precision increases security efficacy
The organization now receives an automated, accurate and prioritized list of vulnerabilities without a reliance on active scans of the network hosts. Additionally, Skybox analyzes vulnerabilities and security controls within the context of the network to zero in on vulnerabilities that must be addressed immediately. This has empowered the security team to take a proactive approach to security risk and gain greater efficiencies and accuracy with remediation efforts.

In addition, the IT security team discovered nearly three times as many vulnerabilities compared to traditional active scanner results. Importantly, accuracy was close to 100 percent.

Managing OT vulnerabilities
Patching vulnerabilities on OT devices requires downtime that is not always possible and can crash devices as well as invalidate vendor support. However, the biggest challenge organizations are struggling with is limited visibility of the IT–OT attack surface. Visibility is essential to understand the environment and its connections, design security architectures, identify attack vectors and locate blind spots.

To achieve the kind of comprehensive visibility needed to secure converged networks, solutions must offer the ability to passively collect information and completely model all networked environments, beyond Enterprise IT and including entire OT and IoT networks.

[1] Vulnerability and Threat Trends Report, Skybox Security, 2020

Results

Skybox Vulnerability Control translated vulnerability data into actionable intelligence. Attack simulations provided real-world context to the risk vulnerabilities pose to a unique network, helping teams quickly prioritize threats and tailor the response in a way that best fits their organization.

Vulnerability Control tackled the challenges presented by traditional scanning. The solution's passive vulnerability assessment capabilities captured vulnerability data on network devices and zones that traditional scanners miss – all without network disruption. With accuracy and timeliness, the solution fully automated the customer's vulnerability management program from detection through assessment, prioritization and remediation. With on-demand vulnerability intelligence, the company was able to reduce risk and eliminate attack vectors quickly and accurately.

Accuracy rates close to
100%

See it live

Interested in a guided demo of Skybox solutions for vulnerability and threat management or security policy management?

Request a demo >

ABOUT SKYBOX SECURITY

Over 500 of the largest and most security-conscious enterprises in the world rely on Skybox for the insights and assurance required to stay ahead of their dynamically changing attack surface. Our Security Posture Management Platform delivers complete visibility, analytics and automation to quickly map, prioritize and remediate vulnerabilities across your organization.

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