

Case Study: Source Code Security Audit for a Publishing House

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About the Customer

Our Client is a leading Indian English-language daily newspaper and magazine publishing company. The Newspaper primarily covers India and international business, and financial news and issues.

The Challenge

Our Client was facing continuous attacks and compromises on their web presence. As their web presence was responsible for a significant chunk of their revenue, this was a matter of concern and financial loss. Due to the severity of the situation, our team recommended a complete Source Code Security Audit of the legacy application in-order to bring it up to speed with current security practices

The Solution

By using Security Brigade's unique in-house developed EDITE framework, the consultants completed Source Code Audit. Key highlights of the audit are listed below:

1. Interaction with the development team to understand business requirements and data flow of the application.
2. Using automated tools, preliminary scans were performed on the source code to identify all the flaws as per OWASP top 10 and other industry recognized standards.
3. Based on the applications critical function, manual source code audit was performed to identify threats.
4. Assisting developers to fix the vulnerabilities identified during the course of the audit.

In-addition, our team also helped the Customer's development team in implementing patches and fixes for the identified vulnerabilities.

The Deliverables

The reports and remediation information provided were customized to match the Client's operational environment and development framework. The following reports were submitted to the customer:

- **Executive Report:** Overview of the entire engagement, the vulnerabilities discovered and the recommendations made to mitigate the threats identified on the Client's websites.
- **Technical Report:** Comprehensive information, proof of concept examples and detailed exploitation instructions of all the threats identified and remediation for the same.
- **Excel Tracker:** Simple and comprehensive vulnerability tracker aimed at helping the IT asset owner keep track of the vulnerabilities, remediation status, action items, etc.

The Benefits

By reviewing the application at the source code level Security Brigade was able to assist the client in identifying critical vulnerabilities that would have resulted in serious financial impact on the client.

Additionally, the Client gained the following benefits:

- **Risk Benefits:** Security Brigade minimized security risks by assessing the customer's application vulnerabilities at source code level.
- **Cost Savings:** Security Brigade suggested cost-effective risk-mitigation measures based on the customer's business requirements that would ensure security and continuity of the business.

- **Compliance:** At the end of the audit the client was complaint to various industry standards including PCI DSS.



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