NowSecure™

INSTILLING TRUST IN MOBILE BANKING APPS, MAINTAINING COMPLIANCE AND GROWING A LINE OF BUSINESS

MEA Financial's mobile products build relationships between their banking clients and their client's customers. Relationships are built on trust. MEA makes protecting that trust, their clients, and their end-users priority number one. "Securing our software, mobile apps, data, and servers is a daily practice we take very seriously," said Ed Rhea, president and CEO of MEA.

300	11 M	33%
MOBILE APP DEVELOPMENT CLIENTS	**APP IMPRESSIONS A MONTH**	**APPROXIMATE REDUCTION IN SECURITY TESTING TIME**

ABOUT MEA FINANCIAL:

MEA is a national leader in the provision of innovative software solutions to the financial services marketplace. MEA Financial's solutions are technically advanced, provide superior functionality, are easy to integrate, and offer enhanced levels of cost efficiency. MEA's mobile banking division develops apps for financial institutions and over eight years has grown to serve more than 300 banks and credit unions. In one month, MEA's portfolio of mobile apps received more than 11 million app impressions and seven million log-ins.

CHALLENGES:

1. Security is priority number one when it comes to mobile banking apps

When money changes hands, financial institutions and consumers expect an above-and-beyond level of security and trustworthiness. "For the sake of our customers and users, we need to make sure our apps protect data by encrypting it and never storing it on a device," Product Manager Travis Swinford said. "If there's data caching somewhere, we need to know right away so we can eliminate it early in the development lifecycle."

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-Travis Swinford

MEA's clients expect the team to address everything within their control to secure the apps they develop. "If an unauthorized transaction occurs, money might be leaving an institution," Swinford said. "That affects the account holder, the bank's bottom line, and us— it's a lose-lose-lose situation." A high-risk flaw could lead to a wide-scale compromise, which could result in a bank losing customers, MEA Financial losing a mobile client, and in some cases financial penalty.

2. Assessing app security without delaying releases

MEA Financial's mobile division serves more than 300 clients. Banks and credit unions want to deliver secure apps to their users and push new functionality on a regular basis. To satisfy customer demand, MEA needs to deliver innovative apps and updates quickly but without losing sight of their high security standards. "Each app is a unique build configuration," Swinford said. "As we grew our mobile business, putting our dedicated team on a full review of every single app became resource intensive." MEA needed a solution that both assessed apps for the latest mobile security flaws and allowed the team to test apps more efficiently.

3. Achieving compliance in a highly regulated industry

Financial institutions operate within a highly regulated environment, and MEA clients require proof of actions taken to safeguard the data transmitted by their mobile products. "Audit guidelines have evolved quickly to take mobile into account," Swinford said. "We need to go into detail about the workflow and logistics of each product, and the FFIEC requires these institutions to vet their products annually." MEA also needs to demonstrate due diligence through SSAE 16 Type II audits, which assess data security safeguards, controls, and management over time.

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SOLUTION:

MEA set out to identify an independent mobile app security testing solution that coalesced with the mobile development team's existing process. "NowSecure was one of the first to market and has reputable clients," Swinford said. "Based on the results we saw from Lab Workstation at the time, the decision was a no brainer."

The purpose-built Lab Workstation hardware-and-software kit subjects Android and iOS apps to a battery of static application security testing (SAST) and dynamic application security testing (DAST) on physical devices rather than emulators. "Lab Workstation allows the team to perform testing more effectively because it's geared toward the native platforms and common, current vulnerabilities," Swinford said.

Lab Workstation also easily plugged-in to MEA Financial's mobile development process and multiple rounds of testing. An .apk or .ipa file is uploaded to the kit for assessment prior to user acceptance testing (UAT). After any additional changes post-UAT, and additional rounds of testing, the team tests the build prior to submitting it to the Apple App Store or Google Play.

RESULTS:

"We saw immediate value from the product," Swinford said. "We sped security testing up and made it more effective, which freed the team up to focus on other tasks." Swinford estimates that testing time decreased by a third.

The team appreciated that they could hook the devices up and configure testing to evaluate the items most valuable to them and their customers. It also provided another validation layer for every app they produce and maintain to catch low, medium, and high risk flaws they may otherwise have missed.

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Lab Workstation also supports MEA Financial's compliance efforts. Their clients can rest assured knowing their apps receive regular security assessments via a third-party tool provided by a leading mobile security vendor. "A common question we get from new customers is how do we assess the security of the mobile products we deliver, and we obviously need to regularly demonstrate that process to our existing customers," Swinford said. Reporting from Lab Workstation also helped MEA Financial demonstrate due diligence to auditors and as part of annual SSAE 16 Type II audits.

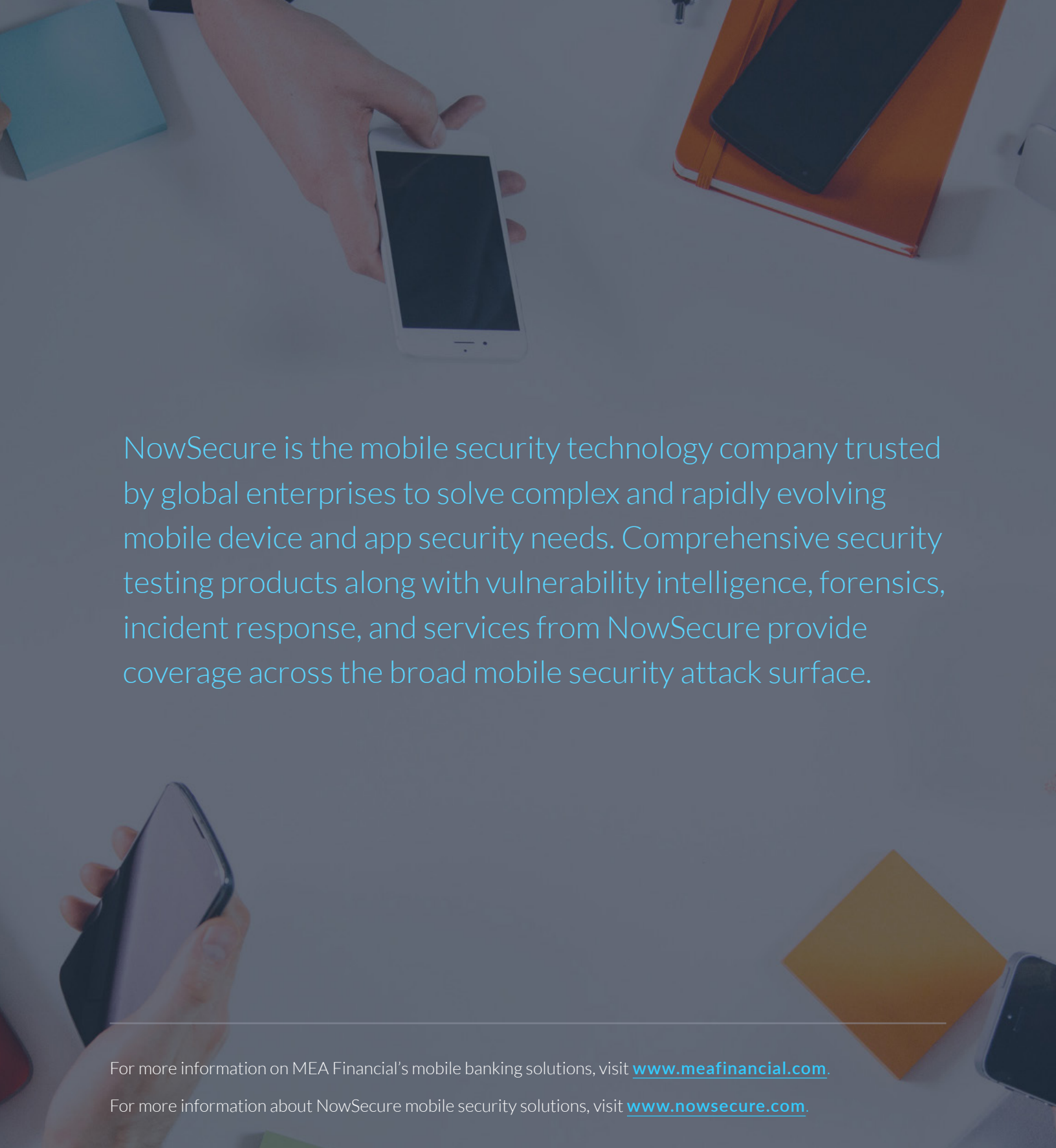"In the end, we include security as part of our quality assurance, because our customers expect it," Swinford said. "NowSecure helps us be pro-active as an organization and gives us confidence that any security concerns we can control outside of the mobile operating system truly are in order when we let an app through to production."

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NowSecure is the mobile security technology company trusted by global enterprises to solve complex and rapidly evolving mobile device and app security needs. Comprehensive security testing products along with vulnerability intelligence, forensics, incident response, and services from NowSecure provide coverage across the broad mobile security attack surface.

For more information on MEA Financial's mobile banking solutions, visit **www.meafinancial.com**.

For more information about NowSecure mobile security solutions, visit **www.nowsecure.com**.

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