NowSecure™

BANK SAFEGUARDS MOBILE ASSETS WITH NOWSECURE

To enable digital transformation, financial institution accelerates the DevOps pipeline and protects users with mobile app security testing and vetting solutions.

ABOUT

A regional bank has long operated across several states and offers a range of financial services solutions to individuals, families and businesses. Active in the community, the company has earned the trust of millions of customers.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As it embarked on a mobile-first digital transformation, a fast-growing regional bank lacked insight into mobile app risk stemming from the iOS and Android mobile apps it builds for customers and the third-party apps employees download from public app stores. It relied on external quarterly penetration testing services that were time consuming and slowed down developers. The bank's application security team solved the problem by turning to NowSecure for a comprehensive array of mobile application security testing solutions and services, including a turnkey mobile app penetration testing kit, fully automated mobile appsec testing software that plugs into the DevOps toolchain and third-party mobile app risk vetting.

The NowSecure mobile application security deployment achieved the following benefits:

- Clear visibility into mobile app risk stemming from security, privacy and compliance flaws
- Power tools and automated mobile appsec testing speed the development lifecycle to support the transition from Agile to DevOps methodology
- Continuous monitoring of third-party mobile app risk in the Apple App Store™ and Google Play™

> *"We don't want security to be a root canal. Automated mobile appsec testing makes it easier for development to embrace security because it's baked into the software development lifecycle process."*
> *— Application Security Executive, Regional Bank*

THE STORY

Operating for decades, a trusted regional bank has evolved with the times. Its flagship mobile app has transformed the way it serves and engages with customers. In turn, the application development and security teams at the financial services company are evolving through digital transformation to support a digital-first strategy.

The flagship mobile banking app and apps for additional lines of business such as mortgages are critically important to the customer experience. For that reason, the institution has embarked on an initiative to pull app development back in house and migrate from an Agile to DevOps methodology, says an anonymous application security executive.

"We will start writing our own apps in house which I'm excited about because we will be able to chart our own course and remediate things ourselves," he says. A comprehensive suite of NowSecure mobile application security assessment solutions has proved to be key to supporting that journey.

The NowSecure deployment provides the regional bank's application security team with complete visibility into the security, privacy and compliance risk posture of the mobile apps the institution and its partners build, as well as apps from public app stores that employees install on their mobile devices.

> *"The NowSecure mobile application security solution has been a major time saver in our sprint releases."*
> *— Application Security Manager, Regional Bank*

REDUCING DEPENDENCE ON OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS

The regional bank previously outsourced mobile application development to third-party companies which created challenges in identifying mobile app risk, says an application security manager. He asks, "What's the delineation of what we own and what we can assess versus what third parties have created?"

Another problem was that the application security team relied on periodic external mobile application penetration testing services, a lengthy process that left precious little time for remediation before a quarterly release. Once the company increased releases to occur more frequently, it became clear that contracted pen testing would slow down the software development lifecycle.

The lean application security team took the initiative to explore ways to save time and better keep pace with the mobile app

dev pipeline. Thanks in part to the NowSecure reputation as mobile security experts, the team landed on the NowSecure Workstation mobile app pen testing solution. Designed for security analysts, NowSecure Workstation includes a suite of security testing software, a fully provisioned MacBook Pro, Android device, iOS device and a Wi-Fi dongle.

"We wanted a tool to save time in pulling together open-source tools and saw it as a great benefit," the application security manager says. "We don't want to be a blocker to dev." NowSecure also provided comprehensive security testing training program to ensure success.

SPEEDING THE RELEASE CYCLE

As the regional bank prepares to move to a DevOps model, it also implemented the NowSecure automated mobile appsec testing platform to continuously security test new apps throughout the dev lifecycle and deliver secure mobile apps faster. "The code releases are going to be much quicker and to keep up with that from a security perspective is going to be crazy," the application security manager notes.

Because a deep-dive manual penetration takes days to perform, the company faced a project backlog. But the NowSecure Platform directly integrates into the dev toolchain, rapidly tests mobile app binaries from each build and automatically generates reports and issues tickets for developers and security analysts with the details they need to identify and remediate security vulnerabilities.

Today, the regional bank uses NowSecure Workstation to test major new releases and for training purposes, but increasingly relies on the NowSecure Platform's automated mobile appsec testing dashboards and reporting to flag vulnerabilities earlier in the pipeline. "It helps to augment our team and gives the cybersecurity and development teams confidence about the level of security we have in place," the application security executive says. "After we deployed NowSecure, the business was ecstatic about our success."

The application security team can break the build and halt the process if automated testing uncovers any serious vulnerabilities. For instance, it used the test results to discuss with the business unit an iOS app not properly using keychain.

The institution intends to use NowSecure to establish a baseline for metrics and expects to see the number of issues that his team flagged and fixed in apps earlier in the software

development lifecycle to increase. "Set it and forget it and put the process in place for it to run automatically," advises the bank's application security manager.

GAINING ASSURANCE ABOUT PUBLIC APPS

The bank also takes advantage of a NowSecure mobile app vetting solution to assess risk associated with mobile apps from the Apple AppStore™ and Google Play™ used by employees on corporate-owned and BYOD devices. "It's been great for applications that we don't control or have the code repository to take our tools and hammer against those applications," says the appsec manager.

The institution examines enterprise apps across many different systems, personal productivity apps, games and apps that staffers install for personal use. When vulnerabilities and other risks are found, the application security team engages with the business unit about what goals it hopes to achieve with that mobile app and if there's an alternative. "It's a good way to drive more awareness about mobile application security within the business."

Overall, the NowSecure mobile application security implementation helps the bank speed secure mobile app development and keep risky apps off employees' mobile devices. And best of all, getting mobile banking app enhancements into the hands of customers faster has made the investment in NowSecure a winning one.

ABOUT NOWSECURE

Only NowSecure delivers fully automated mobile app security testing software with speed, accuracy and efficiency for Agile and DevOps initiatives. Through static, dynamic, behavioral and interactive mobile app security testing on real Android and iOS devices, NowSecure identifies the broadest array of security threats, compliance gaps and privacy risks. NowSecure customers can choose automated software on-premises or in the cloud, expert professional penetration testing and managed services, or a combination of all as needed. Visit www.nowsecure.com for more information.