



Service:
Web App Pen Testing

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### How Crowe UK safeguarded its network with regular penetration testing

### The Requirement

Crowe U.K. LLP (Crowe UK) is a leading audit, tax, advisory and risk firm with a national presence in the UK. Crowe has approximately 1300 people in the UK, based across multiple office sites. Crowe UK provides specialist advice to thousands of clients of all sizes and sectors. They are an independent member of Crowe Global, one of the top 10 accounting networks in the world.

Crowe UK is a cyber-aware company that ensures the best protection for the business. As part of this, it conducts weekly automated vulnerability scanning. As a computerised scan, a list of items is checked or tested on, however Crowe recognise that automated vulnerability scanning has limitations.

Human penetration testers, while using vulnerability scanning tools, would also have the intelligence and knowledge to try and exploit what they find using different ways and techniques that they are seeing in the market.

Crowe UK's cyber insurance provider mandate that penetration testing, over and above vulnerability scanning, is conducted on a quarterly basis.

Therefore, Crowe UK wanted to conduct regular penetration testing to satisfy insurance requirements, identify if anything in the network could be vulnerable, and ensure the business is protected.





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#### The Solution

Crowe UK engaged DigitalXRAID to perform regular penetration testing in order to identify any security weaknesses and potential exploitable vulnerabilities.

As a first step, DigitalXRAID's penetration testing consultants assisted Crowe with effectively scoping the infrastructure pen test. This was to ensure that maximum value would be achieved during the testing time.

DigitalXRAID delivered a thorough penetration testing service in line with the agreed scope. Over several days, the team conducted comprehensive tests which assessed the infrastructure, and determined whether any vulnerabilities existed that could be compromised.

DigitalXRAID used various tools and techniques as part of the penetration test, in line with industry best practice. Testing is performed using an advanced testing methodology which is comprised of years of experience.

The team thoroughly reviewed the infrastructure as part of the reconnaissance stage, including fingerprinting open ports or potential access points and active scanning techniques.

As a high-level overview of the attack simulation phase, the testers looked at areas such as the versions of software or hardware in use, passive monitoring of the network in internal environments, used active scanning techniques such as port scanning, and investigated identity authentication and authorisation in order to attempt to bypass processes and workflows.

As part of the test, DigitalXRAID's penetration testers also assessed encryption security around the transmission of communication. This included checking for common weaknesses in SSL/TLS configurations and verifying that all sensitive data is securely transferred.





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At the end of the testing period, DigitalXRAID supplied a comprehensive report, detailing the methodologies followed and highlighting and categorising any vulnerabilities found into low, medium, high and critical priorities. The report included a risk summary that explained how any vulnerabilities identified could be used by an attacker to affect the business.

"The whole process from scoping to the testing phase was well organised. The penetration test itself was conducted very professionally.

The final report is always very clear and allows us to communicate with internal and external stakeholders in a consistent manner"

Mick Marshall, Director, Infrastructure & Security, Crowe U.K. LLP



DigitalXRAID are an award-winning managed security services provider dedicated to providing our clients with state-of-the-art cyber security solutions. We specialise in Vulnerability Management, Threat Intelligence, Information Security, PCI-DSS, Penetration Testing, Managed Security Services, Security Consultancy, and offer a fully managed Security Operations Centre (SOC) for your complete cyber security protection.

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Crowe UK can be confident that they are safeguarding the business effectively with both automated vulnerability scanning checks and deeper penetration testing conducted on a regular basis.

With the results of the test outlined in the final report, with recommended remediation steps, Crowe has the advantage of proactively addressing any gaps with an action plan, before potential vulnerabilities could be exploited.

By working with DigitalXRAID on continuous penetration testing, the reporting structure remains consistent and therefore communication of results to both the board and other internal stakeholders, and external parties such as its insurance provider, is less onerous.



DigitalXRAID are an award-winning managed security services provider dedicated to providing our clients with state-of-the-art cyber security solutions. We specialise in Vulnerability Management, Threat Intelligence, Information Security, PCI-DSS, Penetration Testing, Managed Security Services, Security Consultancy, and offer a fully managed Security Operations Centre (SOC) for your complete cyber security protection.

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