NEWS CORP MEASURES CYBER RISK POSTURE ACROSS BUSINESS UNITS WITH SAFE

INDUSTRY

Mass Media

RESULTS

- SAFE score per business unit
- SAFE Score per application
- Application categorization as per Business Criticality
- TSAR vulnerabilities identified to prioritize the patching efforts
- Everything on one dashboard!

CHALLENGES

- No visibility per business unit
- Absence of quantification model that factors Business Criticality and Seriousness of a Vulnerability

News Corp is a global diversified media and information services company focused on creating and distributing authoritative and engaging content to consumers and businesses throughout the world. Hundreds of applications owned by the organizations are managed by multiple BUs (Business Units) across the globe. These BUs are in different continents and time-zones; hence a requirement to ensure the security posture of these applications and the underlying tech-stack brings its own challenges!

The requirement was to measure and monitor the security posture of each Business Unit factoring all the applications and its underlying tech-stack to enable central security team drive the vulnerability management program. The primary challenge here is to measure and monitor the security posture of each Business Unit to prioritize and mitigate the most business critical risks.

ON-GROUND EXECUTION CHALLENGES

Prior to SAFE, News Corp didn't have any centralized tool to monitor the vulnerabilities identified for each application across the Business Units and measure them to quantify the overall risk. The hassle of managing multiple spreadsheets, manually combine the assessment result of all the application into business units, and track the progress in terms of what's being fixed and what's not kept on eating a lot of time the team

BRING RIGHT VISIBILITY WITH SAFE

SAFE, is an enterprise-class, unified, and real-time Cyber Risk Quantification (CRQ) platform that offers a comprehensive solution, by taking into account both technical and business aspects, to arrive at informed and prioritised decision making. SAFE has a unique assessment approach across five threat vectors concerning organisations, namely People, Policy, Technology, Cybersecurity Products, and Third-parties. SAFE helped News Corp with the following unique capabilities:

1. Applications classification as per business criticality
2. Vulnerability management and prioritization with SAFE
3. Asset grouping as per business requirements
4. SAFE Score per Asset, per Business Unit

1. Applications classification as per business criticality

SAFE enables News Corp classify applications as per business criticalities. I.e. Critical, High, Medium, Low. The classification enables News Corp to strategically divide their focus on the business critical assets since the defined classification is a direct factor into the SAFE score

2. Vulnerability management and prioritization with SAFE

While running a continuous vulnerability management program, News Corp kept discovering a large number of vulnerabilities on a regular basis. However, in the absence of a common framework to prioritize and monitor the remediation status these vulnerabilities, the overall program didn't enable in addressing the most business critical issues. It certainly gets difficult to prioritize between hundreds of high vulnerabilities to identify the few that may help an adversary execute a well-crafted attack. Finding a needle in the haystack!

SAFE's enables News Corp to implement a risk-based vulnerability management program by flagging the most critical vulnerabilities as TSAR. Originally, TSAR refers to the most powerful man-made nuclear weapon to ever be created. In the similar way, SAFE would identify the TSAR vulnerabilities in the cyberspace! SAFE categorises vulnerabilities as TSAR (or non-TSAR) based on the CVE IDs. TSAR vulnerabilities are a combination of vulnerabilities that are being exploited by threat actors (trending vulnerabilities) and remotely exploitable public vulnerabilities.

While SAFE has integrations available with multiple VA tools, News Corp built a process to onboard vulnerabilities identified from manual and automated scans it ran so that every time a scan runs, vulnerabilities are managed and prioritized by SAFE. As an output, SAFE provided News Corp with a visibility to security posture of each IP Address and each Application on SAFE.

3. Asset grouping as per business requirements

SAFE provides News Corp with a consolidated view of SAFE score of various departments in a single widget. Any new business unit can be onboarded easily in SAFE and can be continuously monitored. Each Business Unit has been assigned a priority score and according to the delta change in its value, SAFE sends actionable alert to the asset group owner and/or concerned authorities in form of an email or system generated telephonic call.

4. SAFE Score per Asset, per Business Unit

SAFE generates a score (SAFE score) per asset based on the assessments performed by SAFE and factoring the inputs received from integrations with other tools. These assets can be further clubbed into an asset group per business unit or per application to factor the security posture of all the underlying assets such as servers, databases, middlewares, etc. This way of risk quantification helps Org in taking the right decision especially during the mission critical go-lives. Org follows a policy of making sure that the overall SAFE score of a mission critical application is 3.5+ with 0 Critical or High vulnerabilities that could cause any business impact.