

Sackers



Overview

Industry

- Legal Sector

Challenge

- Fast-evolving and intelligent cyber-threats
- Defend intellectual property and client information
- Maintain position and reputation as a market-leading law firm
- Limited network visibility

Results

- Real-time threat detection, including 'unknown unknowns'
- Ability to respond efficiently to alerts and carry out risk mitigation
- 100% network visibility

Business Background

Founded 50 years ago, in 1966, Sackers is the UK's leading commercial law firm for pension scheme trustees, employers and providers. Based in the City of London, the firm has 52 lawyers, who manage a client roster of over 500 occupational pension schemes.

The firm works with a wide range of clients from trustees and employers to government bodies and master trusts. In order to provide the best range of services to its clients, Sackers ensures that it remains at the forefront of developments and changes in legislation and regulation in the pensions and retirement savings industry.



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Danny O'Connor
Head of IT, Sackers



Challenge

For the last 20 years, Sackers has been consistently ranked in the top tier for pensions by both leading UK legal directories – Chambers UK and the Legal 500. Its reputation as a trusted advisor relies in great part on its ability to safeguard its intellectual property, financial information and client data.

Sackers was realistic about its risk profile as a potential target for the latest cyber-attacks, which are fast-evolving and increasingly intelligent. As such, the firm was looking for a novel and innovative approach to cyber security, able to detect even the subtlest of attacks as soon as they occur.

Additionally, Sackers was keen to gain a better understanding of its employees' behavior and any existing or potential vulnerabilities that it may not know about, within its complex network.

Solution

Sackers was struck by the effectiveness of the Enterprise Immune System approach, while trialling Darktrace's technology during a Proof of Value period. The technology is powered by machine learning and mathematics developed by specialists from the University of Cambridge.

As soon as Darktrace is installed inside a network, the self-learning technology begins to model the behaviors of all users, devices and the network as a whole to establish a 'pattern of life'.

Using this dynamic understanding of 'self', specific to the network in which it is installed, Darktrace was able to detect several devices within Sackers' network that were transferring unusual amounts of data. Whilst these events were identified as legitimate business traffic, it highlighted Darktrace's ability to identify anomalous activity on the network and provide a greater level of confidence in ensuring the security of the firm's systems. Alerts were immediately generated, allowing the firm's security team to investigate them further and handle them accordingly.

Sackers decided to deploy Darktrace's Enterprise Immune System as the core of its cyber defense strategy.

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Benefits

Thanks to Darktrace's Enterprise Immune System, anomalous behaviour is reported to the firm's security team in real time, allowing for efficient investigation and response. The firm is now able to keep ahead of 'unknown unknowns' and potential insider threats and mitigate the risk they pose.

Darktrace's Threat Visualizer, a 3D graphical and topological interface, provides Sackers with complete network visibility, greatly improving its understanding of its employees' normal behavior, seen on a day-to-day basis.

"Darktrace's technology allows us to detect upstream anomalous activity before it becomes something more sinister," said Danny O'Connor, Head of IT, Sackers. "The Threat Visualizer is totally intuitive and easy to use, which is another reason why Darktrace's Enterprise Immune System is the core component to our cyber defense."

Ultimately, the technology has given Sackers more confidence in the knowledge that its critical assets, intellectual property and business reputation are well-defended from tomorrow's new cyber threats.

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