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Case Study

Private R1 University

How a leading research university maximized their cybersecurity investment for lasting protection with integrated security services from nuHarbor.



Overview

For one of the world's leading academic and research institutions, the sustainable security of global infrastructure, assets, and data is paramount. With increasingly sophisticated attacks on the rise, an effective cybersecurity program for a network spanning 135 countries must provide continuous enterprise-wide visibility and trustworthy threat intelligence. Even the most advanced technology needs qualified human expertise, so the University needed an updated approach that would prioritize security, streamline operations, expand threat awareness, and improve incident response.

Private R1 University

Industry
Higher Education

Size
17,000 Students
6,552 Faculty and Staff
200,000 Alumni

Business goals

The University set out to sustain a worry-free work environment, maximize its technology investment, protect mission-critical data and proprietary assets, establish a cybersecurity plan for lasting protection, and harness big data to enhance operations.

75%

rise in cyberattacks against higher education institutions in 2021.

Source: CSO

55%

of security teams believe the majority of their time spent investigating issues is wasted.

Source: BetaNews

62%

of security teams are understaffed.

Source: IBM



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The challenge

The University had limited resources to leverage its existing tools or to build and maintain a comprehensive cybersecurity program. It lacked visibility across disparate systems and data sources, its IT, compliance, and information security units were siloed, and cybersecurity investment had to be justified to non-technical stakeholders.

The solution

Establishing a baseline

The University owned Splunk Enterprise Security, a top-rated SIEM platform, but needed outside support before its environment could produce trustworthy, actionable insights. On Splunk's recommendation, the CISO chose nuHarbor for a four-week professional services engagement covering data source cleanup, onboarding of critical data sources, and enablement training.

Convincing stakeholders with outcomes

With that foundation of trust, nuHarbor was contracted for premium health monitoring and on-demand engineering for 24/7 administrative and development support. After a significant security incident showed how vulnerable the infrastructure remained, the CISO turned to nuHarbor. Its proprietary Cyber Threat Analysis Center (CTAC) quickly identified indicators of compromise and delivered a remediation plan.

Planning for the future

nuHarbor then deployed a comprehensive security suite: 24/7/365 human security review and threat hunting, curated threat intelligence, and managed SOAR for earlier response. The University also adopted nuHarbor's technology recommendations for endpoint protection and vulnerability management.

> “nuHarbor has been instrumental to our SOC operations. Without their flexibility, expertise, and quick reaction, our small SOC team could not operate. nuHarbor continually engages us at the operational and executive levels. They're always looking for new, creative solutions. Not only are they willing to think outside the box, they actually deliver.”
>
> University CISO

The results

In partnership with nuHarbor, the University navigated internal roadblocks and external vulnerabilities to produce positive business outcomes.

Key achievements

Maximized technology investment

The University maximized its investment in Splunk after just four weeks. The engagement covered data source cleanup, onboarding of critical data sources, and enablement training.

Relief for an overburdened security group

nuHarbor alleviated the strain on the University's security group with 24/7/365 human security review, threat hunting, and managed SOAR functionality.

Enterprise-wide visibility

The University achieved enterprise-wide visibility across a global network while maintaining data ownership, visibility, and control.

Rapid detection and response

Expanded situational awareness, curated threat intelligence, and nuHarbor's Cyber Threat Analysis Center give the University rapid detection and response capabilities.

nuHarbor makes cybersecurity stronger and easier for the University to focus on what matters most: supporting its academic and research mission, and serving its students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Cybersecurity for the public good.

See how at nuHarbor.com

Talk to one of our security experts and we'll create a plan together for protection that gives you peace of mind.

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