

Penetration testing

Advance Housing & Support Ltd

Case Study

About Advance Housing

The vision is clear: to transform the lives of people with a disability or mental health condition by providing the best quality housing, support and employment services. Advance began in 1974 and work with over 44 local authority areas in England providing homes for over 2,500 people. Over 2,000 people receive regular support and 450 people with disabilities also receive expert assistance to develop skills to secure and sustain employment.



Industry:

Housing Association and Support Provider

The Challenge:

To ensure Advance retain a secure environment free from vulnerabilities.

Solution:

Penetration testing conducted by a CREST and CHECK accredited supplier.

Benefits:

- Mitigate the risk of data leakage
- Ensure business operations are continued
- Increase cyber-security awareness
- Meet regulatory compliance
- Regular optimisation of security stature

The Challenge

The need for penetration testing has always been required by Advance, their annual security plans are comprehensive and the testing of their environment is a pivotal component. With an organisation like Advance, it is critically important to ensure their sensitive client data is kept safe and secure.

A key requirement of the security plans needed a CHECK and CREST accredited supplier to ensure their security is optimised and in compliance with ISO 27001 and GDPR. Advance needed a penetration tester who could quickly understand their requirement to conduct testing and identify any potential gaps in their armoury.



The Solution

As a partner of over 8 years, MTI understand Advance's need to be compliant with very stringent security controls to ensure they are managing their data securely. The annual security plans devised by Advance included regular testing conducted by CHECK and CREST certified organisations. MTI was asked to test Advance to identify any potential vulnerabilities across the business including the full internal and external networks.

MTI conducted a full IT health check for Advance in order to meet with the 'Department of Work and Pensions' requirements. The elements tested include:

- External Network Penetration Test
- Internal Network Penetration Test
- OS Hardening/Build Review • Domain Compromise Test
- Password File Cracking
- Onsite Wireless Test
- Laptop Compromise Assessment
- Remote Social Engineering
- Physical Security Review/Social Engineering Assessment
- Citrix Break-out Test
- Firewall Configuration Review
- Router/Core Switch Review

Testing provides foundations for Advance to build action plans for the business to enable the continuous improvement process. In addition, the partnership allows Advance to be more dynamic through Performance, Governance and Quality (PGQ) and tenders for new business, along with opportunities to continually test, optimise and improve their security stature.

Results

Through regular testing, Advance has begun to develop a company-wide maturity to security and testing as a whole. The various aspects of the testing like social engineering have had a marked effect on raising awareness on both physical and cyber security for Advance.

Advance has been able to comfortably complete the requirement for Cyber Essentials with progressively less remedial action. Through the partnership with MTI, the specific focus across multiple areas of the business was vital for Advance to ensure they are compliant with GDPR and ISO 27001.

Why MTI

Choosing MTI provided Advance with peace of mind. By entrusting the award winning penetration testing team, MTI was able to build a long-term robust testing plan within budget for Advance. MTI took time to understand the business and to understand the unique requirement. Advance found MTI gave them peace of mind whilst providing accurate scope and scale for their needs.

Advance highlighted the full end-to-end service from the account management team, to the testing and through to project management was first class. The outputs from the full penetration testing service provided clear concise reports, as part of the high-level service Advance have come to expect with MTI.



The whole end-to-end experience from MTI was very efficient. From the Account Management to the Service Delivery, it was just seamless

Philip Jackson
Head of ICT & Business Systems
Advance Housing & Support Ltd



About MTI

Over the last 25 years, we've helped thousands of organisations to transform their IT environments, enabling them to embrace new technologies like cloud while reducing operating costs, increasing profitability and mitigating risk. We employ proven methodologies and best practices and adopt a consultative approach to help our customers solve business challenges, providing secure, compliant management of their applications, data, infrastructure, and environments.

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