YX-Energy collaborate better with their SSPs to improve their security posture with Cymulate

Organization

[YX Norge AS](#), is a part of Uno-X Energi, the 2nd largest provider of petrol and diesel in Norway. YX Norge is a provider of fuel to over 300 self-owned gas stations and over 40 truck stops in Norway. Their unique business model is based on partnering with station proprietors who are passionate about their customers, and who run and control their daily operation. 90 stations are part of the national YX / 7-11 chain, but each owner has the freedom to establish and realize their vision and are inspired to create local meeting places. Uno-X Energy is owned by Reitan Handel that operates in multiple business areas including retail, real-estate and energy.

YX Norge Information Security Information security at YX Norge is led by IT Manager, Rene Francis Lares. The company's IT and Security infrastructure is primarily outsourced and hosted by managed service provider Visolit, Azure, and others, including the security specialist company Painkiller. YX Norge outsources their Security Operations Center (SOC) and Managed Detection & Response (MDR). Management of their security architecture and security controls are also outsourced, except for endpoint security, which is managed internally.

Business Challenge

As a result of their business model, YX Norge have IT presence in hundreds of locations that they do not own. YX Norge delivers secure payment, procurement, and other IT services to the stations, including the processing of financial transactions of their corporate YX fuel card. YX Norge has implemented a three-tier network segmented architecture, a robust identity management system and use of encryption to protect their critical systems from unauthorized access from the hundreds of stations they serve. Rene notes that he is more concerned about email and web-based threats targeting their own employees than he is from attacks originating from the gas stations and truck stops.

And yet they were looking for a way to validate that the enforcement of their segmentation policies and access controls were effective, in addition to assuring their corporate IT defenses. YX Energy wanted to establish a data-driven, objective program that would enable them to collaborate with their service providers to improve their security posture by helping the providers deliver a better service. They attempted to base the collaboration on manual penetration tests, but this failed. Rene summarizes, "we used to contract pen testing services, we found them expensive with little value since they only provided a snapshot of our security and usually they were outdated by the time we got them"

Challenge
YX Energy provides IT services to hundreds of independent gas stations. They outsource the operations of their IT security to trusted security service providers. Still, they needed to validate their security posture pro-actively.

Solution
Painkiller delivers Continuous Security Validation as a Service based on Cymulate, enabling YX Energy to optimize their protections in collaboration with their service providers.

Benefits
An objective security validation program that assures the security of their internal IT users, their critical hosted systems, and the IT services they provide the independent stations without in-house security expertise.

Solution

YX Energy was introduced to Cymulate Continuous Security Validation by Painkiller a security specialist company based in Norway. After running a PoC they immediately decided that this is exactly what they were looking for. During the PoC they simulated a hacker moving laterally in the network, and within 14 minutes the attack was detected and contained by their SOC service provider. YX Energy had found the solution to their concerns. They could validate the access controls and segmentation policies connecting the gas stations to their IT systems and they could collaborate in real time with their service providers to assess and optimize their detection and response SLAs.

Rene notes, "We bought Cymulate because it challenges our security in real-time and allows us to work with our security service providers to improve their services and make us more secure." Since YX Energy outsources all their security operations and have no security resources internally they employed a consultant from Painkiller to operate the Cymulate platform. In a sense they are receiving Continuous Security Validation as a Service. Painkiller is a Norwegian information security company whose employees have 20+ years of security experience. Working with Cymulate they offer solutions that increase their customer's security significantly. Hans-Petter Norman Head of Advisory at Painkiller says that "Organizations may relax into a false sense of security after integrating security solutions and beefing up its infrastructure. Cymulate, the world leader in Continuous Security Validation, prevents this by measuring a company's true preparedness to handle existing and future cybersecurity threats effectively. " YX Norge is one of our customers who has realized the value of security validation to verify their security posture. Together we help YX Norge to identify and resolve security gaps before it is too late.

Benefits

Together with Cymulate and Painkiller, YX Energy has developed a continuous security validation program that assures operational effectiveness and enables ongoing optimization of their security controls without any in-house security expertise. They formed a three-way collaboration between their security service providers,

Painkiller and themselves to continuously improve their security posture. This collaboration serves to assure the security of their internal IT users, their critical hosted systems, and the IT services they provide the independent stations. YX Energy also use Cymulate to evaluate new security technologies.

"We were looking at several virtual security appliances for our Azure deployment and used Cymulate to select the best fit for our needs based on their security performance," notes Rene. "We are more confident in the services we receive and the technologies we deploy with Cymulate." In the future YX Energy has plans to go public together with other companies in their group. This will require compliance to regulations such as Sarbanes Oxley. Rene is not concerned about this since the reports provided by Cymulate will prove to their internal and external auditors that they are maintaining a robust security testing program. Rene summarizes "Cymulate enables us to validate our security posture extensively in real-time, and it is updated daily with new threats as they emerge. It is a must-have in every enterprise security architecture, and I strongly recommend it."

> "We rely heavily in security service providers (SSPs) and technology to protect our company. In the past we assumed that we were protected, but in reality, our assumptions were incorrect. Cymulate enables us to collaborate with our SSPs to improve our security, and they have embraced this because it improves the services they provide to all their customers.
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> Rene Francis Lares, IT Manager, YX Energy

painkiller

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