

YMCA Greater Toronto (YMCAGTA) maximizes value from their existing security architecture



Organization

The [YMCA of Greater Toronto \(YMCAGTA\)](#) is a charity that ignites the potential in people, helping them grow, lead, and give back to their communities. Like many other mid-size organizations, the YMCAGTA faces the same threats that larger companies face, but with a smaller team and limited resources. They must protect their organization from evolving cyberthreats in order to maintain the services and support they provide the members of their community, avoid the financial impact of an attack, and meet the regulatory requirements that control the types of data they handle.

To help face these on-going challenges, the YMCAGTA has collaborated with Secure Sense – Canada’s Most Trusted Cyber Security Provider.



Business Challenge

Being a not-for-profit does not provide the YMCAGTA discounts when it comes to cybersecurity.

They have to be, and are, vigilant in safeguarding all of their critical data and related assets.

They also have to meet applicable regulations; including the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) the federal privacy law for organizations in Canada, and the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS).

When Craig Bradley stepped in to take on the role of SVP of IT for the YMCAGTA the first thing he required was visibility into the existing security posture to assess potential gaps and exposures. It was critical that he have visibility into the organization’s security setup and deployment, and more importantly, its effectiveness in protecting YMCAGTA assets. Having used Cymulate in previous roles, achieving the visibility he required was a no brainer.

"Cymulate provides me on-going visibility into our risk exposures across all potential attack vectors, which allows me to make targeted investments applied to those areas with the greatest risk exposure. It also provides transparency to our board of directors, into the on-going effectiveness of investments in our cybersecurity program." Says Craig.

Challenge

YMCAGTA wanted visibility into their security performance to validate how truly secure they are, improve their security by optimizing their existing security estate, and make targeted procurements.

Solution

By deploying Cymulate, the YMCAGTA were able to assess their security strengths and weaknesses by testing their security controls across a broad spectrum of attacks that are updated daily with new threats.

Benefits

The YMCAGTA immediately improved its posture by optimizing their existing security controls and were able to justify additional investments based on test results to make targeted procurements.



Solution

Simple to deploy and simple to use, the Cymulate platform provided the YMCAGTA tangible security improvements in under a month. The assessments provided Craig and his team the visibility they required and the guidance to improve the performance of the technologies they had in place. It also allowed Craig to justify budget requirements, allocate resources effectively, and make targeted procurements.

"I had visibility to our exposures, it helped to prioritize them, and the prescriptive guidance made the remediation activities manageable.

It helps my team to think like the adversary and become better defenders, effectively doubling the productivity of my security team,"says Craig.

Secure Sense, Veselin Bjelakovic, Secure Sense Account Executive, noted that YMCAGTA has a solid security architecture from leading vendors; however, Cymulate helped them find misconfigurations that created gaps they were unaware of in critical layers of defense, including endpoint and network security controls. The platform enabled the team to assess that the configuration changes they applied were effective through retesting. **"Cymulate enables us to test true cyber security resilience and establish security risk factors for our clients in a matter of days. As a company focused on providing comprehensive cyber security solutions, Cymulate has played a pivotal role in our ability to deliver truly unique value to our clients."** said Veselin. Looking forward, YMCAGTA plans to expand the use of the platform by automating security assurance activities. Activities that security teams typically run frequently, to validate their security policies and processes are correctly enforced.

YMCAGTA, like many other organizations had to support a large employee base working from home during shutdowns forced by COVID-19. Being SaaS based, Cymulate provided them a handle on how well their remote employees were protected at a time when their security team were also forced to work from home.

"As a repeat buyer, I am confident in recommending Cymulate for the visibility it provides to manage our security resources effectively and the efficiencies we gain with continuous security optimization that is simple to use."

Craig Bradley, Senior VP of IT, YMCA
Greater Toronto



Benefits

Security visibility – know precisely how well their security architecture is protecting them and what requires attention.

Security efficacy – challenge, assess and optimize security controls against the evolving threat landscape.

Board engagement – establish and present to the board cyber security risk measures and KPIs based on real life attacks to help plan, prioritize, and justify investments.

Operational efficiency – allocate resources effectively, improve productivity by leveraging more automation, and make targeted procurements where and when they are required.

Team enhancement – improve team skills by helping them think like the adversary and become better defenders.



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