

CASE STUDY

Application Security

Building Evaluation Criteria for Application Security at a Large Insurance Company with In Balance IT



Executive Summary

A Fortune 500 insurance brokerage firm, sought assistance from In Balance IT to establish evaluation criteria for application security solutions.

Introduction

Headquartered in Illinois, the company provides a wide range of insurance and financial services across North America. The company faced challenges in evaluating application security solutions that could integrate with their existing software development lifecycle (SDLC) and developer workflows. The solution needed to prevent vulnerability builds from being deployed into production, improve the time taken to identify and respond to vulnerabilities in production, and scale effectively with future growth, all while remaining within the allocated budget.

Challenge

The company had been utilizing an inadequate solution that left security gaps in their cloud-based developer workflow process. Through in-depth discussions with executives and stakeholders, In Balance IT identified the core requirements for the solution. It needed to support the latest programming languages such as Python, .NET, JavaScript, and integrate with tools like GitHub, Azure DevOps CI/CD, and Jira. Additionally, the IT and Finance teams expressed a preference for a Software as a Service (SaaS) solution that supported SAML v2.0 and SOC2 type 2 compliance. Further discussions and research led to the conclusion that a single solution supporting Static Application Security Testing (SAST), Software Composition Analysis (SCA), and Dynamic Application Security Testing (DAST) would be ideal.

Summary

Company

A Large Insurance Company

Type

Insurance Brokerage Firm

Location

Illinois

Challenge

We had been utilizing an inadequate solution that left security gaps in their cloud-based developer workflow process.

Solution

In Balance IT conducted a comprehensive technical assessment of the client's application security strategy.

Results

In Balance IT Solutions successfully supported them in establishing evaluation criteria and selecting an application security solution that met their requirements and objectives.

Alternatives and Decision Criteria

Several factors guided the proof of concept evaluation:

- 1 General considerations:** Pricing, sustainability, and alignment with company growth plans.
- 2 Scanning capabilities:** Ability to support multiple programming languages and frameworks, continuous scanning, and processing time for each scan.
- 3 Integration support:** Compatibility with existing CI/CD tools and ticketing systems.
- 4 Reporting and logging capabilities:** Out-of-the-box reporting features, customization options, and logging tools and ticketing systems capabilities.

Solution

In Balance IT conducted a comprehensive technical assessment of the client's application security strategy, engaging with stakeholders at all corporate levels to understand their needs. We analyzed the findings and collaborated with seven different vendors to evaluate potential solutions. After conducting three product demonstrations, we recommended the best options for proof-of-concept deployments. The chosen solution was ultimately adopted by the client.



Results

In Balance IT Solutions provided critical insights for the client's application security evaluation and decision-making process. The client is currently in the final testing and development stage, with plans to deploy the solution into production in June 2023. Leveraging our application security knowledge and methodology, the client was able to deploy cloud applications with the appropriate security elements, saving time to market and reducing overall costs by 35% while exceeding their decision-making criteria. In Balance IT Solutions successfully supported them in establishing evaluation criteria and selecting an application security solution that met their requirements and objectives.

