

# External Attack Surface Management

How ACDS used **Observatory** to identify an unknown vulnerability for a global financial services company.



## THE COMPANY

A large global financial services company.

## THE CHALLENGE

The company was only alerted to a potential vulnerability after ACDS conducted an analysis of their external attack surface. An old office network device that had been sold on to a third party was still beaconing to the old network and so could be identified as an 'open door' to a potential cyber-attack.

Financial services are attractive targets for cybercriminals due to the possibility of high financial rewards. Large organisations struggle to keep track of all assets and require a solution to detect known and unknown assets, keeping their full attack surface in view.

There is a vast sea of data available, but it is essential to find actionable insights among this data to effectively protect the organisation from an attack.

## THE SOLUTION

### Extensive data set

Our experienced data analysts flagged this vulnerability after reviewing multiple internet-scale data sources.

### Risk prioritisation

With a combination of in-house expertise and ML algorithms, we identified a highly vetted list of vulnerabilities to flag as top priorities to the customer.

### Attack surface monitoring

Focused on a highly-tuned, human-trained detection system for lower false positives, giving higher confidence in deploying staff for remediation.

## AT A GLANCE

### Challenges

- Discovering unknown assets
- Keeping full attack surface in view
- Finding actionable insights amongst vast sea of data

### The Solution

- Continuous review of the attack surface using extensive data discovery tools
- Highly tuned Risk Prioritisation
- Ongoing attack surface monitoring

### The Results

- Team alerted of unknown assets as soon as they are discovered
- Decrease in attack surface
- Analytics to show progress

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## THE RESULTS

The organisation could see immediate results after selecting key seed data.

In this case, the quick action enabled the customer to shut down the asset immediately, preventing a potential data breach or other malicious attacks.

The time lag between asset discovery and risk assessment was minimised to hours, compared to days or weeks, from other solutions.

Now, with careful ongoing monitoring, the customer can decrease the vulnerabilities exposed in its external attack surface by removing assets not in use, or not required.

Using analytics provided by the tool, customers are able to monitor progress and present a decrease in potential vulnerabilities that could be exploited, to various stakeholders throughout the organisation.



ACDS Observatory consistently uncovers surprising insights that others often miss, making it an invaluable tool for us.

## Customer Testimonial