

A Kent Local Authority look to ensure their Physical Security is as secure as their Virtual Security



BACKGROUND

In the current working climate, considerable manpower, effort and resource is devoted in an attempt to secure organisations against cyber-attacks. But physical security is very often overlooked (even though it's part of ISO 27001 – the International Standard for Information Security). Unfortunately, against a determined attacker the physical security weaknesses of a company is often the 'chink in the armour' required for a successful compromise of an organisation's digital infrastructure.

Having already ensured their IT Security was up to scratch with Annual Penetration Tests, a Kent Local Authority wanted to understand any possible weaknesses they had in their physical security in an effort to eliminate the risk against unauthorised intruders.

PROJECT SCOPE

The Kent Local Authority needed a Physical Access Penetration Test and Social Engineering exercise to find out how their organisation's physical security stood up. In particular, Mandalorian was contracted to conduct the following:

- Perform social engineering attacks on employees and external consultants to attempt to gain physical access to restricted areas of the site in scope.
- Provide detailed feedback on the physical security posture and any recommendations which would enhance both physical security and cyber security for the organisation.

In addition, the social engineering and physical access Penetration Test results were to be produced in order to satisfy specific industry standards including PSN ref PHY.1 on physical security.

WHY MANDALORIAN

The Kent Local Authority chose Mandalorian to perform the test having successfully worked in partnership with them previously. For this specific task however, the following aspects were crucial:

- Personnel – As well as experienced social engineers, the Mandalorian team includes an internal ex-Government gateway security consultant and TigerScheme technical panel and management committee members.
- Domain-Specific Expertise – Mandalorian are recognised experts in the Local Government space and have been working in this area since 2005.
- Specificity – Mandalorian do not offer a 'one size fits all' approach and know that the requirements for each contract will be different depending on a clients needs.

- Support –Mandalorian focus on high-end expertise, tailored report writing, wash-up workshops and through-life support. Some providers deliver little more than an automated scan and a boilerplate report. Mandalorian understand that this isn't sufficient in today's complicated world.
- Value – Mandalorian are fully aware of the financial pressures facing authorities and run activities concurrently to reduce costs. Only the Consultants time is billed for without being charged for time used on automated tools.



Having worked closely with Mandalorian on multiple occasions, we had every **faith in their ability** to test our physical security and were not disappointed. Their willingness to **precisely tailor to our requirements**, their approachability and **unbeatable value for money** – increasingly important these days – means we'd have no issues recommending them. 

IT Manager,
A Kent Local Authority

THE RESULT

The site in scope was subjected to an attempted physical security breach including attempts to penetrate into secure, employee-only areas.

Mandalorian consultants were able to successfully penetrate the organisations physical perimeter, manoeuvre inside the facility and access employee-only areas which were controlled with RFID (Remote Frequency Identification).

Vulnerabilities were highlighted within the human factor category as well as with ID badges and RFID. Recommendations were made accordingly to help eradicate these issues and to enhance security.

By continually looking at the physical security as well as IT Security, the Kent Local Authority are confident that with Mandalorian's expertise and guidance, they are doing everything possible to avoid the issues involved with having unauthorised visitors.