

Pluss remediate security concerns uncovered by new Pen Testing Partner, Mandalorian



BACKGROUND

Pluss is a Social Enterprise that supports thousands of disabled people each year to achieve work and a career. Pluss also directly employs hundreds of disabled people within its own commercial enterprises.

As a charity, Pluss is constantly under pressure financially from stakeholders and patrons to ensure they operate as efficiently as possible. Therefore, when it comes to security and information technology expenditure, Pluss have an obligation to seek the best value for money from their providers.

Pluss previously worked with alternative suppliers to conduct their annual Penetration test but this time round needed a partner with specific experience with the Silverlight application. Mandalorian were recommended by an Independent Data Security professional to conduct the tests and help meet requirements stipulated to Pluss by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) which is critical to the charity in order to secure funding.

PROJECT SCOPE

The scope called for the external infrastructure to be subjected to an unauthenticated penetration test to identify any security weaknesses which may allow a potential attacker access to data or to compromise externally facing hosts. In addition, Pluss's internally developed Silverlight application needed to undergo a stringent application security assessment to identify any weaknesses in the configuration, authentication and functionality - both from the client and the server.

A range of services were required including:

- Network availability and port scan of provided IP addresses
- Network vulnerability scan of provided IP addresses
- Exploitation of identified vulnerabilities
- Privilege escalation
- Wireless Assessment
- Network Infrastructure Assessment
- Firewall review

“Mandalorian gave us daily feedback and initial results which were invaluable as we were able to **act quickly to resolve vulnerabilities** found. Their customer service as well as their testing expertise is excellent and **always professional.**”

Amanda Walker, Information Governance Officer, Pluss

WHY MANDALORIAN

As this was the first occasion that Pluss were considering Mandalorian as a partner, the following aspects were key:

- Support - Pluss were looking to find a partner that would take the time to understand their particular business requirements and provide a robust, long term working relationship. Mandalorian work closely with clients and focus on high-end expertise, tailored report writing, wash-up work shops and through-life support.
- Personnel & Expertise - For this penetration test, Pluss specifically required testers who could carry out testing on a Silverlight application. Mandalorian had the skillset required to fulfil this aspect of the scope. The Mandalorian team includes an internal ex-Government gate way security consultant and TigerScheme technical panel and management committee members.
- 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.
- Value - Mandalorian are fully aware of the financial pressures facing all charities and run activities concurrently to reduce costs. Only the Consultants time is billed for without being charged for time used on automated tools.

THE RESULT

Mandalorian uncovered various vulnerabilities within Pluss's internally developed Silverlight application and ensured that remediation advice to fix these issues was provided both during the engagement, and within the final report. Mandalorian were also able to disprove a vulnerability which had previously been highlighted by another security testing company as a false positive.

The through-life support from Mandalorian was also instrumental for Pluss as they required help and guidance on writing technical information which could later be presented to support accreditation applications.

Pluss will continue working with Mandalorian for future testing requirements and look forward to enhancing our already **strong working relationship.**

Amanda Walker, Information Governance Officer, Pluss