

## ● THE CHALLENGE

The IoD found that adhering to nationally recognised compliance standards in tandem with managing a complex IT estate was increasingly time consuming and difficult. Securing endpoints was the greatest challenge facing the organisation.

## ● THE SOLUTION

ThreatAware is a breach prevention platform that makes agentless integrations with an organisation's existing IT estate. The platform enabled the IoD to identify and manage previously invisible vulnerabilities. In addition, it gave the security team an unparalleled insight into the security posture of all assets accessing corporate data.

## ● THE RESULT

The IoD has a simple but highly effective solution that provides 24/7 assurance that their organisation is cyber resilient and compliant with national standards. On top of this, they now have 100% confidence that all endpoints accessing corporate data are as secure as they can be.

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## CASE STUDY

| Institute of Directors (IoD)

| Royal Charter

**A global organisation for professional leaders closes vulnerabilities and streamlines IT security operations**



“ For the first time we have a single source of truth in a dashboard that gives us a holistic view of everything going on across our entire cyber estate. ”

ANDREW HUTCHINSON, INTITUTE OF DIRECTORS

## Customer overview

Founded in 1903, The Institute of Directors (IoD) is the UK's longest running business organisation for professional leaders. Headquartered in Pall Mall, London, the IoD is dedicated to supporting its community of UK business leaders by encouraging entrepreneurial innovation and promoting responsible business practices. The IoD is committed to staying at the forefront of UK industry and business development, with an IoD member in a senior position at 78 of the FTSE 100 companies.

### THE CHALLENGE

**Using multiple management consoles to monitor the security status of every endpoint whilst maintaining compliance is laborious and inefficient**

The Institute of Directors prides itself on being at the forefront of best practice guidance for businesses across the UK and seeks to lead by example. This prompted the need to achieve compliance with industry standards like Cyber Essentials and ISO27001.

“At the outset, I wanted a tool that would support my IT team in meeting and monitoring particular compliance requirements. Not only did I want to demonstrate that we take best practice in security and data protection seriously, but also to protect the IoD's reputation and stay clear of any costly fines,” explains Andrew.

But this focus changed when he began to look beyond compliance to realise the benefits and efficiencies that could be gained by monitoring its cloud platforms from one central dashboard.

“Similar to many businesses, we've delivered a number of digital transformation projects and this has led to an increased presence of cloud applications and tools within our environment. The nature of cloud means that any member of the IoD team can access business critical applications and data anywhere, on any device, and we need to have oversight of the security status of each of these endpoints. But with so many cloud platforms, how were we going to keep everything in check? Going into every individual management console would be a nightmare and labour intensive. I wanted something that could automate it all and remove that headache.”

## SOLUTIONS MANAGED

-  Email Security
-  Anti Virus
-  Patch Management
-  Browsing Security
-  Vulnerability Scanning
-  Device Encryption






I had three options. The first two meant that we'd be doing all of this monitoring and reporting in-house and manually, something which is labour intensive and open to human error. The third option would be to find a way to automate and streamline this process and have everything we need to know readily available to us in an easy to understand dashboard.



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Andrews continues: "Particularly now during the Covid-19 pandemic, with much of the workforce operating remotely, there is a heightened risk of threats being introduced into our environment. This means we need to have greater visibility of the security controls that are active, and more concerningly inactive, across all devices. Thus giving us a true and simplified view of our current risk status so we can prioritise the areas that need remediating. We can't protect our environment if we don't have that fundamental visibility."

### THE SOLUTION

## A consolidated view of the organisation's level of cyber security risk

With a plan in mind, Andrew sought a solution that could clearly visualise the IoD's IT estate, including all endpoints used by staff members across all platforms, and offering a consolidated view of any potential risks to the IoD's security.

Key to the selection criteria was the need to ensure the team could effectively manage a multitude of cloud platforms and applications from one centralised dashboard. In addition, Andrew wanted the ability to provide detailed evidentiary reports for compliancy auditing purposes, all while delivering cost and time savings.

Andrew explains: "I had three options. The first two meant that we'd be doing all of this monitoring and reporting in-house and manually, something which is labour intensive and open to human error. The third option would be to find a way to automate and streamline this process and have everything we need to know readily available to us in an easy to understand dashboard."

Having launched a search for a company who could support the IoD's needs, ThreatAware was the only platform that fitted the bill on all counts.

"I sat down with the ThreatAware team for a demo of the platform, wanting to understand how it would fit with other tools that we purchased as part of a bundle, and I knew this solution was what we needed. Working with ThreatAware meant I could get the platform installed quickly and start seeing benefits almost instantaneously. For the first time we had a single source of truth in a dashboard that gave us a holistic view of everything going on across our entire cyber estate" said Andrew.

### THE RESULT

## The ease of management the consolidated dashboard provides cannot be underestimated

The most immediate benefits of the ThreatAware solution have been on the day-to-day activities of the IT team. Having a consolidated view of all of the disparate cloud platforms and endpoints that are connected to the IoD's infrastructure, and whether they are adhering to the security policies that have been set out.

With a multitude of cloud applications and platforms to be monitored, ThreatAware displays all of the required information in one single-view dashboard. What's more, the monitoring is automated so that alerts are only



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INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS

## KEY BENEFITS

- ✓ Visibility of disparate cloud platforms in one dashboard
- ✓ Meeting and maintaining compliance requirements
- ✓ Enabling prioritisation of risks
- ✓ Time saving and greater efficiencies
- ✓ Ease of integration with other applications



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generated if an endpoint suddenly falls out of its security rules. That means the IT team is able to efficiently prioritise tasks based on threats that have been identified, and not spend time manually hunting for potential threats.

As Andrew explains: “There is always a risk, if everything is being done manually, that something falls through the net. This means that any risk not identified may not get picked up for another 24 hours or even longer, exposing us to potential and unnecessary security risks that could impact our business.

“Now the team isn’t spending their days manually trawling through every management console for every tool and application that we have, it means they can focus on other areas of the business and look for ways they can deliver value to our operations. The ease of management the consolidated dashboard provides cannot be underestimated when it comes to tracking the endpoints and assets within our business.”

Utilising the ThreatAware dashboard, Andrew and the team can now see immediately any alerts that are flagged, enabling the team to prioritise their time to investigate and action the risk quickly and efficiently. For Andrew, he is now able to glance at the dashboard and be confident that when everything has a green tick next to it, everything is secure. But, if there are any red crosses, then he can quickly identify the problem and ensure it gets resolved.

While Andrew was able to recognise the benefits from a technical IT perspective, it was also important to demonstrate to the board the value that has been derived from their investment into the ThreatAware platform.

“When there are lots of cyber attacks happening in the world, as a business leader you want to know that your IT team is keeping the business secure. Alongside putting a case forward for the longer term cost and efficiency savings that could be made, we’ve also been able to give our Head of Compliance access to the platform. That way, he can see that compliance is being maintained throughout the year, not just in time for the annual audit and review.

“This leads to a reduction in auditing costs as ThreatAware provides all the relevant reports to ensure we have met our regulatory obligations and can validate that we are doing everything we say we are doing.”

## THE FUTURE

### Further operational benefits and efficiency savings

As the IoD continues to reap the benefits of the ThreatAware platform, Andrew is now looking at how they can progress their compliance journey and deliver further operational benefits and efficiency savings.

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