



International Energy Company Hardens Defenses Against Digital Supply Chain Attacks

THE CHALLENGE

E.ON, a European electric utility company based in Essen, Germany, operates one of the world's largest investor-owned electric utility. The company employs 80,000+ people and serves 53 million customers across 30 countries.

E.ON's cyber security team recognized the need to proactively expand its processes and procedures to protect the organization and customers from potential data loss via their third-party online ecosystem. To support the initiative, E.ON's team identified a key strategic task: understand the risks they are exposed to as part of their external attack surface.

E.ON's external attack surface includes both its owned and directly managed assets, as well as the third-party IT assets that are owned and managed by vendors and partners. E.ON's attack surface had steadily grown as it incorporated these vendors' products and capabilities to deliver best-in-class service and support to its customers. As the E.ON team began to consider the full extent of this online ecosystem and the possible threats E.ON was exposed to, E.ON's team understood the critical need of getting a clear picture of this vast ecosystem and was a key solution requirement.

Challenge

- Reduce cyber risk of Nth-party vendor and partner relationships

Solution

- Achieve complete visibility of the external attack surface, including its vast network of partners and providers

Outcomes

- Reduced overhead/overtime through automated discovery and mapping of IT and third-party resources
- Prevented operational disruptions, data loss, and ransomware attacks through proactive identification, mitigation, and remediation of vulnerabilities

"After working with Cyberpion for over a year, we are confident that its Ecosystem Security platform gives us the critical visibility we need to solve the difficult challenge of managing the risks and vulnerabilities in our entire digital supply chain."

— René Rindermann, CISO
E.ON

THE SOLUTION

While investigating solutions to support this initiative, E.ON identified Cyberpion's Ecosystem Security platform as a strong candidate. Exploring Cyberpion's capabilities included a full Proof-of-Concept (PoC) product demonstration. Cyberpion's solution is delivered as a web-based SaaS portal and requires no installation, configuration, or modification to E.ON's existing IT. Because of the speed at which the PoC was deployed, E.ON was able to immediately gain valuable actionable insights into its online ecosystem.

Two of Cyberpion's core capabilities were identified as key solution requirements for E.ON's project. First, Cyberpion's ability to continuously discover and inventory not only E.ON's internet-facing assets and the direct suppliers' assets it relies on, but also the long chains of fourth, fifth, etc vendor and partner relationships. This was essential to understanding its total risk exposure.

Once the true size and scope of the ecosystem was understood, E.ON discovered a second key solution requirement. E.ON needed a method for identifying and prioritizing any risks to maximize the staff resources dedicated to protecting and managing this attack surface. Cyberpion's ability to combine a multi-layered risk and vulnerability assessment of Web, Cloud, DNS and PKI infrastructures minimizes false positives and noise while prioritizing the most critical vulnerabilities. E.ON team members found the insights from Cyberpion improved their efficiency, as well as their effectiveness.

When combined, the ability to inventory the entire attack surface and present the risk assessment data in an actionable format made Cyberpion the solution of choice for E.ON.

THE OUTCOME

Cyberpion's Ecosystem Security platform has allowed E.ON to pre-emptively act on vulnerabilities. By acting before hackers are able to exploit these vulnerabilities E.ON has been able to prevent significant damage in terms of dollars, brand reputation, or customer trust and loyalty.

"Cyberpion's approach to external attack surface management allows my team to go on offense. We are now able to actively seek, find and fix critical threats from this dynamic and vast digital environment before they impact our organization and our customers."

— René Rindermann, CISO
E.ON



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