

Elias Neocleous & Co LLC



Overview

Industry

- Legal Sector

Challenge

- Protection of intellectual property and client data
- Risk of information disclosure via subtle exfiltration
- Legacy security tools that require constant care and feeding
- Limited visibility of digital activity across international organization

Results

- Real-time detection of and response to in-progress cyber-threats
- Self-learning AI that learns normal 'on the job' without prior assumptions
- Ability to identify novel attacks via multiple weak indicators
- Complete visibility across the entire digital estate

Business Background

Elias Neocleous & Co LLC is the largest law firm in Cyprus and one of the leading law firms in Southeast Europe. With more than 140 legal and tax specialists operating across three locations in Cyprus and an international network of offices, the company has for many decades assisted clients in cross-border investment projects throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

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**Michael Ioannou, Chief Information Officer,
Elias Neocleous & Co LLC.**

Challenge

Overseeing disproportionately large volumes of sensitive data, Elias Neocleous & Co LLC is tasked with protecting not only its own reputation, but also the confidentiality and integrity of its clients' sensitive information from sophisticated cyber-criminals.

“Our main concern was data exfiltration that could unfold in a 'low and slow' fashion and bypass traditional controls without anyone blinking an eye,” explained Michael Ioannou, Chief Information Officer at Elias Neocleous & Co LLC.

The law firm was looking to enhance its security posture to better protect against data theft and increasingly advanced cyber-attacks. It therefore sought a tool that could reliably detect and respond to threat actors at an early stage, before they have time to broaden their presence within a network and exfiltrate highly sensitive information.

Solution

Elias Neocleous & Co LLC deployed Darktrace's Enterprise Immune System, as well as its Autonomous Response technology Antigena, to defend against potentially damaging cyber-attacks from the outside world, as well as insider threat. Powered by self-learning AI, the Enterprise Immune System works by learning the normal 'pattern of life' for the law firm's entire digital environment from the ground up, allowing it to detect threats that other tools miss.

By analyzing the multi-dimensional behavior of every user and device in light of new evidence, Darktrace's AI can uniquely piece together the disparate indicators of exfiltration methods that would otherwise go unnoticed. "Having a tool that allows you to react faster and spot the threats that you wouldn't necessarily see is crucial," commented Ioannou.

Once a threat is detected, Darktrace Antigena — the world's first Autonomous Response technology — surgically neutralizes the attack in seconds. Given that machine-speed ransomware and other threats can strike at any time, Elias Neocleous & Co LLC has found Darktrace Antigena's around-the-clock, real-time protection to be invaluable.

The security team at Elias Neocleous & Co LLC recognizes that artificial intelligence is becoming essential in cyber security. Given the sophistication of attackers and the sheer volume of attacks, it is no longer viable to rely solely on human analysts, and AI-based cyber defense is the only approach that can sift through the background roar of complex digital systems and surface the subtle signals of an advanced attack.

Through its intuitive user interface — the Threat Visualizer — Darktrace provides actionable intelligence, prioritizing incidents in accordance with the seriousness of the threat. This allows their analysts to spend their time where it is most needed, rather than scour through thousands of alerts every day.

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**Michael Ioannou, Chief Information Officer,
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Benefits

Darktrace's Enterprise Immune System was installed in under an hour and immediately began to develop a 'pattern of life' for the law firm's entire digital estate. Threatening behavior is reported to the firm's security team in real time, allowing for efficient investigation and response. The firm is now able to stay ahead of 'unknown unknowns' and potential insider threats, mitigating the risks they pose.

"With other solutions, there is too much valuable time lost in learning to manage the tool," explained Ioannou. In contrast, Darktrace's Threat Visualizer provides an intuitive means to conduct threat analysis and the in-person and online training that Darktrace offers makes this process even easier.

Through the Threat Visualizer, Elias Neocleous & Co LLC has also benefitted from being able to customize the type of threats they are alerted to. "We get the reports when we need them and can make these bespoke to what we want to be informed about, without any extra noise," commented Ioannou.

In addition, the Autonomous Response technology provided by Antigena gives the security team peace of mind that an attack that strikes while they're sleeping, or simply away from their desks, will be detected and neutralized. "Darktrace's autonomous cyber response is necessary not only because humans alone cannot keep up with today's threat climate, but also because self-driving AI attacks are approaching. With Antigena, we can rest assured that we are prepared for that reality".

Elias Neocleous & Co LLC has enjoyed the complete visibility Darktrace offers across the digital estate, giving the security team insight not only into activity at the perimeter, but also from their own employees, protecting the network from internal threats. "Darktrace gives us insights into our business and the ability to monitor the behavior of our users," explained Ioannou. "Deploying Darktrace was really a no-brainer."

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