

British Land



Overview

Industry

- Real Estate

Challenge

- Sophisticated zero-day attacks and insider threat
- Protection of critical assets and company reputation
- Limited network visibility

Results

- Alerted to anomalous behavior and suspicious activity in real time
- 100% network visibility
- Threat Visualizer interface
- Threat Intelligence Reports

Business Background

British Land is one of Europe's largest publicly listed property development and investment companies. Headquartered in London, it takes in an annual revenue of over £400 million and is a founding member of the European Public Real Estate Association. Founded 160 years ago, the company prides itself on delivering long-term value and returns to stakeholders and investors whilst creating high-quality environments that make a positive difference to local communities.

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Eric Bradley, Head of Information Security, British Land

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Challenge

Today's threat landscape, of sophisticated and targeted attacks and insider threat, can no longer be effectively tackled by legacy approach tools or perimeter defenses. British Land was realistic about its risk profile as a target for cyber attacks and as such, was looking for a new technology capable of detecting the earliest indications of potential threats.

As a real estate investment trust, British Land manages its own intellectual property and critical data, the protection of which is paramount to its business reputation. A breach to its systems could potentially cause extensive damage.

The company was particularly concerned about zero-day exploits, which traditional security tools are ill-equipped to defend against. British Land was keen to be alerted to any anomalous behavior as soon as it occurs rather than responding to incidents retrospectively.

Solution

During a 4-week 'Proof of Value' ('POV'), the efficacy of Darktrace's Enterprise Immune System was demonstrated to British Land's security team. A Darktrace appliance was installed into the company's security stack in under an hour and immediately began to learn British Land's specific 'pattern of life'.

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**Eric Bradley, Head of Information Security,
British Land**

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The 'immune system' technology, powered by machine learning and mathematics, is inspired by the human immune system. It models the behaviors of every user, device and the network as a whole in order to establish a dynamic understanding of what is normal activity.

Therefore, any behavior or activity that deviates from the norm, and therefore may be indicative of a cyber-attack, is immediately reported to British Land's IT security team in real time, allowing them to carry out further investigation and risk-mitigation if necessary.

"The Proof of Value was absolutely essential for us. We wanted to try Darktrace's technology out first and it didn't disappoint. It was installed in under an hour and found a few low level anomalies immediately," said Eric Bradley, Head of Information Security, British Land.

"That gave us enough comfort that it was thoroughly monitoring our network and, therefore, if there was something malicious actively attacking us, the technology would bring it to our attention at the earliest possible stage."

Benefits

Thanks to the Enterprise Immune System, British Land is now able to defend itself against new and previously unencountered cyber threats early on, including insider threat and zero-day attacks.

Darktrace's Threat Visualizer interface, a 3D graphical overview of the network, presents all potential threats to the company's security team as soon as they occur, classifying them according to seriousness. This allows the company to investigate and handle each issue by efficiently allocating human resources. Moreover, the 'playback' tool in the Threat Visualizer enables the security team to watch back the specific events that led to an attack.

The company also receives Threat Intelligence Reports ('TIRs'), written by Darktrace's expert analysts. "It is very comforting to know that there is another pair of eyes on our network at all times. We know that if we happen to miss something, the experts at Darktrace will always notice, and explain the alert to us in an intelligible, helpful way," continued Eric Bradley.

"Darktrace gives us complete visibility into our network. Being able to see malicious behavior, as it happens, gives us an exceptional advantage against cyber-attackers and hopefully will keep us from becoming another name in the press for the wrong reason."

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