

VISIONAEL CASE STUDY

The College of William & Mary

WILLIAM & MARY

Organization

The College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA

- 7,400 students
- 1,500 faculty and staff in multiple departments
- 7,400 desktop and server nodes
- 100 servers
- Windows, Solaris and Linux-based operating systems

Key Challenges

- Large bursts of activity on the network when students arrive on campus
- Viruses and worms typically introduced to the network via laptops and roaming users
- Minimizing the impact of roaming machines and protecting critical assets such as AdminNet

Key Benefits

- Protection of key data and information assets
- Accurate discovery of all hosts
- The ability to verify vulnerabilities and eliminate “false positives”
- The ability to conduct content rich scanning
- A single application to manage discovery, scanning and validation



Nation's Second Oldest College Safeguards Campus Network Through Visionael® Security Audit™ Solution

Each fall, colleges and universities across America experience a flood of students eager to tackle another academic year. With university networks serving a central role in the distribution of information, students typically arrive on campus with laptop or desktop computers in tow, creating a number of unique challenges for college IT departments responsible for safeguarding university networks. As viruses and hacking incidents rise in prevalence, leading schools have sought outside expertise in protecting their networks and information assets from attack.

In the case of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, a spate of network attacks combined with the beginning of the 2003/2004 school year contributed to the college selecting Visionael's Security Audit solution with the Intelligent Attack Module™ as a means to proactively measure and manage potential network vulnerabilities. Visionael Security Audit is a comprehensive solution that can mitigate

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attacks, speed time-to-resolution and simplify the entire vulnerability management process. When combined with the Intelligent Attack Module, the solution eliminates time-consuming “false positives” and assures that the applied fix is effective.

Founded in 1693, the College of William and Mary is the second oldest higher learning institution in the U.S. and nearly 8,000 students and faculty rely on the college's network to access e-mail, course materials, the Internet, college Intranet, and administrative applications such as AdminNet. The college's information assets include intellectual property, such as scientific research, and student records, including grades and health records.

“The sheer size, available bandwidth and accessibility of university networks make them an appealing target for hackers,” explained Scott Fenstermacher, IT Network Manager at William and Mary. “Add to that students logging onto the network with their own machines, and you've got a

potentially dangerous situation. We needed to be able to step up security by regularly scanning for, identifying and fixing potential network weaknesses before they can be exploited.”

Minimizing Risk with Content Rich Scanning

With so many students and faculty accessing e-mail and the Internet, viruses and intrusions are the most common network incidents. The school provides each student with access to Norton AntiVirus software. While students are responsible for maintaining their own PC security, Visionael's Security Audit allows the uni-



versity to regularly scan all 100 servers and nearly 8,000 computers on the network, identify infected computers and immediately quarantine high-risk hosts using an open-source tool. To protect the network, computers found to be infected with a virus are denied network access until the appropriate patch has been applied and tested for security.

Visionael's Intelligent Attack Module enables the college to conduct an attack on systems with known vulnerabilities with

the purpose of validating vulnerabilities and patch effectiveness. The module, unique to Visionael, greatly reduces the number of “false positives” identified during a scan, saving valuable time and enabling the college IT department to focus on fixing weaknesses that truly compromise the network’s security.

That functionality was particularly useful in the Fall of 2003 when the Blaster worm was wreaking havoc across the country. Working together with students and faculty, the college IT department sent a coordinated e-mail campaign to all students, advising them of the danger and providing them with a link to the appropriate patch. Security Audit enabled the department to identify potential weaknesses and keep potential hackers at bay.

“We selected Visionael for its scalability and for its useful reports on vulnerable hosts,” said Fenstermacher. “We were looking for a scalable solution that could contend with high bursts of activity and could be programmed to conduct automatic scans for specified vulnerabilities.”

Visionael’s Intelligent Attack Module ... greatly reduces the number of “false positives” identified during a scan

Security Audit software is currently available through Visionael's network of authorized resellers and VARs or by calling Visionael directly at +1 (650) 470-8920. Prices start at \$16,250 USD. Potential customers interested in downloading and evaluating the Visionael Security Audit solution may visit www.visionael.com to experience the value of next-generation vulnerability management.

About the College of William and Mary

The second-oldest university in the United States, William and Mary offers graduate and undergraduate programs in the arts, sciences, business, education, law and marine sciences to 7,500 students from 50 states and more than 75 countries. The college remains dedicated to the philosophy that excellence in teaching is the key to unlocking intellectual and personal possibilities for students. William and Mary provides a high-quality education that prepares students to make significant contributions to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the nation. In recognition, the media have included William and Mary among the nation's prestigious “Public Ivys,” and ranked it first among state institutions in terms of commitment to teaching.

About Visionael

Headquartered in Palo Alto, California, Visionael is the trusted source for network infrastructure management; enabling IT professionals to more effectively manage and secure their networks. Visionael solutions empower outsourcers, large enterprises and service providers to discover, document, design, provision, operate and secure mission-critical networks. Visionael has more than 50 large customers worldwide, including Sprint, Verizon, EDS, IBM Global Services, Kaiser Permanente, Fidelity Investments, The Pentagon, and The White House Communications Agency. For more information about Visionael, please visit www.visionael.com or call (650) 470-8920.



Visionael Solutions Overview

Visionael Security Audit™

Designed to protect enterprises, government agencies, educational institutions and outsourcer's assets by proactively managing network vulnerabilities with network discovery, unrivaled vulnerability and risk assessment, unique validation and remediation tracking in one intuitive, non-intrusive solution.

Visionael Network Audit™

A sophisticated network discovery and documentation software solution that delivers an accurate, complete real-time inventory of network devices and associated interconnections.

Visionael NRM

The solution of choice for modeling, designing and managing a centralized repository of physical and logical network inventory. It offers high-productivity engineering design capabilities as well as the ability to present detailed representations of the network in historical, current/as-built, and future views.



Visionael Corporation
410 Cambridge Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94306
650-470-8920 Tel
www.visionael.com

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