

Zorgverzekeraar



VGZ-IZA-TRIAS: ENSURING REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AND SECURITY

As application security threats and compliance risks rose, VGZ-IZA-Trias sought a highly-effective way to automate its vulnerability management program.

“We have a responsibility to protect the health care information of our customers. With QualysGuard, we know we’re doing just that.”



Marco van de Veen, ICT System Security Consultant

VGZ-IZA-Trias

With more than 4 million citizens under its umbrella, VGZ-IZA-Trias provides a third of the Dutch population the coverage they need. The €5.27 billion insurer processes more than 350,000 claims each day.

Keeping the IT infrastructure that allows VGZ to provide these services secure is essential, not only to protect its own proprietary systems and information, but also to ensure that the insurer is fully compliant with Dutch government health care privacy regulations. “As the largest health insurance company in the Netherlands, maintaining high levels of security is very crucial to us,” says Marco van de Veen, ICT system security consultant at VGZ-IZA-Trias.

A vital part of VGZ’s security and regulatory compliance efforts is making certain that its infrastructure doesn’t contain software vulnerabilities or configuration errors that could make a security breach possible, or knock its systems out of compliance. With those aims in mind, VGZ sought an effective way to regularly assess its external, web-facing systems for any potential security weaknesses.

But when VGZ’s security team began appraising available vulnerability scanners—both open source and commercial—the initial impressions weren’t very favorable. “Nothing we evaluated was as accurate, or as flexible, as we wanted,” explains van de Veen. In addition, because it is devoid of any technical support or customer service, VGZ preferred not to turn to open source tools. “We need support. And we need a viable company that we can be certain will be around to stand behind its solutions,” he says.

In addition, considering that newfound application and operating system vulnerabilities are announced almost daily—in fact, averaging more than 155 each week in 2006—VGZ also sought a vulnerability management solution that would enable the company to scan its infrastructure whenever needed, be up-to-date with the latest security checks, and not prone to time-consuming false positives.

The search didn’t look hopeful until VGZ evaluated Qualys’ on demand vulnerability management solution, QualysGuard. “We immediately saw the difference between QualysGuard and the competition,” says van de Veen. “QualysGuard really stood out when it came to ease-of-use, accuracy, and flexibility,” he says.

VGZ-IZA-Trias: Ensuring Regulatory Compliance and Security

Because it's delivered as a service over the Web, QualysGuard eliminates the need for VGZ to deploy, maintain, and update any vulnerability management software. And van de Veen and his team can conduct QualysGuard security assessments securely, and access results through its easy-to-use Web interface. Using QualysGuard, VGZ can proactively protect its network and infrastructure through the full vulnerability management lifecycle: asset discovery and prioritization, vulnerability assessment and analysis, remediation through fix verification, and security policy compliance. "QualysGuard makes it possible for us to scan whenever we need to," says van de Veen.

Today, QualysGuard is the center of VGZ's vulnerability management program, not only for the company's scheduled monthly security assessments, but also for any out-of-cycle scans that become necessary whenever new and highly-critical vulnerabilities arise. In addition to scanning its systems, VGZ regularly scans the infrastructure of its outsourced hosting companies. "These providers are hosting Web sites with our company name. It's crucial that they're kept secure. QualysGuard gives us an efficient and cost-effective way to scan and validate their systems," says van de Veen.

"It's about staying secure in the most efficient way possible, and that's the power of QualysGuard."

Marco van de Veen, ICT System Security Consultant, VGZ-IZA-Trias

The in-depth remediation information provided from within QualysGuard helps van de Veen and his team to quickly remedy any uncovered vulnerabilities. "It provides everything we need from remediation information to instant access to the CVE (Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures dictionary), as well as vulnerability information from the software vendor. Qualys always provides quick and clear remediation information," he says. "Even if there's no patch available, Qualys gives us the information we need for a workaround," he says.

All of these capabilities help the company better maintain regulatory compliance to the Dutch government's health care data privacy regulations, as well as prepare for the required semi-annual evaluations conducted by VGZ's external auditing team. "The QualysGuard assessments are extremely effective. If the QualysGuard verification report is clean, we know that we're patched and ready for our audit," he says.

VGZ-IZA-TRIAS SCOPE & SIZE

Nijmegen, The Netherlands
2,300 employees
€5.27 billion revenue (2005)

BUSINESS

With more than 4 million insured through its services, VGZ-IZA-Trias is the largest health care insurance provider in the Netherlands.

BUSINESS PROBLEM

VGZ-IZA-Trias sought an easy-to-deploy, highly-accurate and automated way to manage and mitigate the vulnerabilities that threaten the security and regulatory compliance of its infrastructure.

SOLUTION

VGZ-IZA-Trias turned to Qualys' QualysGuard Enterprise on demand Web service to automatically identify and more effectively mitigate system vulnerabilities, as well as maintain Dutch government health care data privacy regulations.

WHY VGZ-IZA-TRIAS CHOSE QUALYS

- Accuracy: 99.997 percent accuracy rate, based on more than 150 million IP audits per year.
- Flexibility: The QualysGuard on demand solution enables VGZ to schedule automated monthly scans and conduct out-of-band assessments whenever new and critical software vulnerabilities arise.
- Timeliness: Always up-to-date security checks and network intelligence.

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