



## SEKERBANK REDUCES RISK THROUGH VULNERABILITY MANAGEMENT

*This established Turkish bank knew exactly what it needed in a vulnerability management application: it had to be reliable, accurate, and automated. After a careful evaluation, only one service was able to meet the bank's criteria.*

**“QualysGuard Express has provided us the vulnerability management abilities we needed, and we look forward to building and expanding this program.”**

Cagatay Isikci,  
Information Security Manager  
Şekerbank



If you want to keep something secure – a network, server, or application – you need to have a way to consistently evaluate it for vulnerabilities. You need to be able to identify its weaknesses and remedy the flaws and misconfigurations that create risk. However, many businesses don't understand the real risks to their business-technology systems, or how to rid their infrastructure of them. Their applications and networks will have unpatched systems, misconfigured systems, outdated software, and other errors that can lead to a negative audit finding, or even a security breach.

The processes are similar whether you're assessing the vulnerabilities of an application, a network, an office campus, or a global or national business: the underlying infrastructure must be mapped and potential weaknesses identified, quantified, and prioritized for eventual remediation.

Operationalizing these tasks was the precise challenge faced by Cagatay Isikci, Information Security Manager of Istanbul, Turkey-based Şekerbank. For more than 50 years, Şekerbank has provided financial services, commercial, and retail banking throughout Turkey. “We needed a reliable, accurate, and repeatable way to find and remedy misconfigurations and outdated software,” says Isikci.

To find the best vulnerability assessment application available, Isikci and his team established a set of criteria to grade applications or services. The bank carefully considered the independent opinions of prominent research firms in addition to its own detailed questionnaire that prospective vendors answered. Şekerbank evaluated vulnerability management systems according to their ease-of-management, ability to find vulnerabilities, false-positive rate, reporting, ticketing, and ability to remediate during the pilot deployment. Şekerbank awarded five points for each criteria.

They also turned to local security solutions provider Avanteg to help with the testing and eventual selection of the vulnerability assessment and management solution that came out on top of this extensive evaluation. “We wanted to find something that was easy to implement, update, and remedy, as well as provide good ticketing and support,” Isikci says.

### **Only QualysGuard Makes the Grade**

Ultimately, after an evaluation on a test network, Şekerbank chose QualysGuard Express from Qualys Inc. QualysGuard Express automates the life cycle of network auditing and vulnerability management, including system discovery, asset prioritization, vulnerability assessment reporting, and remediation tracking. Driven by the most comprehensive vulnerability KnowledgeBase in the industry, QualysGuard delivers continuous protection against security threats without the substantial cost, resource, and deployment issues associated with traditional software. As an on-demand Software-as-a-Service (SaaS), there is no infrastructure for Şekerbank to deploy or manage.

## Sekerbank Reduces Risk Through Vulnerability Management

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That means QualysGuard's on-demand delivery enables Sekerbank to manage vulnerabilities more successfully while cutting associated costs through streamlined operations. "QualysGuard scored highest on all of our criteria during our testing," says Isikci. "It became very clear that QualysGuard was the superior service," he says.

Sertan Kolat, Information Security Services Manager at Avanteg, says that implementing QualysGuard Express was very straightforward. "Everything is managed from a web browser, which makes QualysGuard Express very easy to use," says Kolat. Avanteg provided Sekerbank with brief training on how to use QualysGuard Express, as well as advice on how to integrate a vulnerability management program into its organization, and now only needs to provide local support for any minor questions that may arise.

"Qualys has proved easy to implement and provides the workflow we needed to build a vulnerability management program. That's from the accurate identification of vulnerabilities in our systems to Qualysguard Express' comprehensive reporting," says Isikci. "The most beneficial aspect of Qualysguard Express, we've found, is its remediation. Some products discover vulnerabilities, but they are unable to show the precise remedy. QualysGuard Express provides the exact steps needed and resources to fix each vulnerability," says Isikci

Today, Sekerbank has attained the continuous, automated, and accurate assessments it sought initially to identify and fix system vulnerabilities, and then constantly validate that those systems stay secure. "We can perform an assessment whenever we need to, and that versatility is crucial to stay secure in today's fast moving threat environment," Isikci says

Building on that success, Sekerbank is looking forward to deploying QualysGuard Policy Compliance to build on its vulnerability management program. In that way, Sekerbank also will be able to collect operating system and application configuration and access control settings so it can document compliance with its corporate security policies. "QualysGuard Express has provided us the vulnerability management abilities we needed, and we look forward to building and expanding this program," says Isikci.

### SCOPE

Financial Services Company  
Scope: Turkey

### BUSINESS

Provides a full range of commercial and retail banking services

### BUSINESS PROBLEM

Put in place a vulnerability management program to reduce risks to the bank's IT systems.

### SOLUTION

QualysGuard Express

### WHY SEKERBANK CHOOSE QUALYSGUARD

- Automated, on-demand security and vulnerability audits.
- QualysGuard is extremely easy to deploy, manage, and operate.
- Highly-accurate vulnerability and configuration scans.
- Insightful, actionable vulnerability reports, including detailed remedies.
- Powerful remediation capabilities, an area where other assessment tools fell short.

### WEBSITE

[www.sekerbank.com.tr](http://www.sekerbank.com.tr)



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