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How to expand application security testing with fewer resources

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Introduction

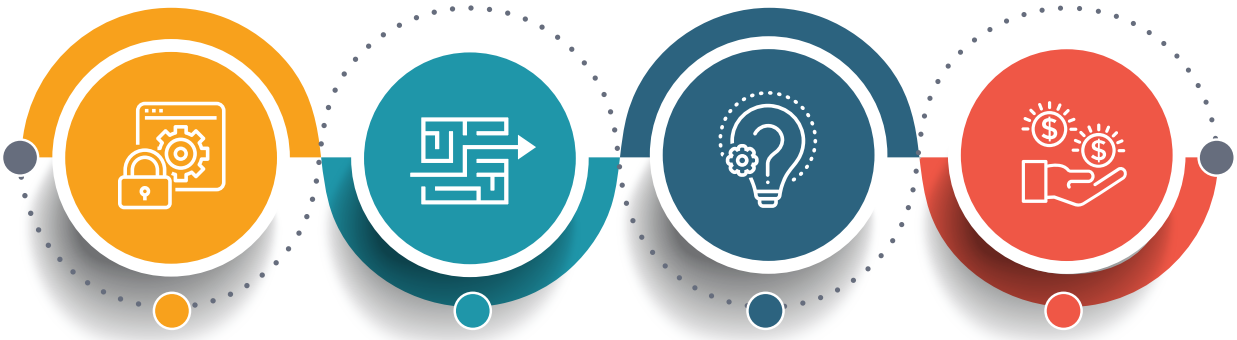
During these challenging times, companies have endured considerable financial damage, regardless of their location or industry. The world is experiencing uncertainty and fear. Some companies are making hard decisions to lay off or furlough employees to weather the financial storm that is upon us.

Most organizations use software applications to run critical business processes, conduct transactions with suppliers and deliver services to customers. While organizations leverage security technologies for routine tasks such as networking, perimeter protection, identity and data protection, they struggle with implementing, managing and maintaining effective application security programs. Capitalizing on ineffective application security testing programs, hackers have leveraged application vulnerabilities to make them one of the principal threats in cyber-warfare.

The ramifications of under-secured applications can be dire. Security vulnerabilities during application development can give hackers the ability to destabilize applications and obtain unfettered access to confidential company information and private customer data. This type of data loss can lead to a damaged brand reputation, loss of consumer confidence, disruption of business operations, interruption of the supply chain, threat of legal action and regulatory censure.

Addressing application security can be quite challenging. Large organizations manage thousands of applications, and the task of managing their security typically falls on the shoulders of a small, overburdened security team. Today's environment only strains security teams, as developers maintain test coverage.

During this time, HCL AppScan can help companies lower their costs with scale, by adopting more effective testing coverage.



Application Security Trends

Common Business Challenges

Business Drivers

Benefits of Scaling Testing Cost-Effectively

Application Security Trends

- Application Security is #1 area of concern for CISOs (630 Companies Surveyed)
- Application layer is responsible for 33% of security breaches
- 90% of applications have known security flaws
- 34 days on average to patch flaws
- 1 in 6 open-source download requests are for a component that contains a known vulnerability
- 64% surveyed expressed concern with security of their mobile apps
- 63% surveyed cited downtime as #1 concern

Common Business Challenges

Compliance - Governments and industries around the world have instituted regulations that companies must adhere to, to protect their data and sensitive information. These include PCI-DSS, GDPR, HIPAA, Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX), etc. Companies also have internal security rules and policies that development teams must follow before applications go into production.

Companies will ask themselves:

- Where is my business at risk?
- How do I set my testing policies for application security?
- Can application exploitation expose my sensitive data?

Meeting Development's demands - Applications have only grown in importance with the expansion of IoT, where apps are intertwined with all the devices that we interact with. Companies support their customer and partner ecosystems by continual improvement of user experience. This requirement for innovation puts a tremendous strain on development teams to meet their deadlines.

Companies will ask themselves:

- How do we test apps for security in rapid DevOps / Agile shops, without slowing down the process and our delivery schedules?
- How do we reduce costs and catch security problems earlier in the lifecycle, where they are easiest to fix?

Lack of Resources, Skills and People - Given the current environment, the lack of skills and resources will create even more challenges for security teams, as developers try to keep up with the pace and scope of their application testing. Application Security teams are small in size, but the number of apps that they need to test can range from 1,000 to 30,000, or even more. That is why it is critical to include the development organization, which is considerably larger, in the security process. By having Development participate in security, they can help to scale programs and provide more excellent protection.

Companies will ask themselves:

- How do we prioritize the work, given the resources we have?
- What apps should we test, and how deeply should we check them?
- How do we staff and improve skills and awareness, so that we can scale testing?

Application security customers have four typical business drivers

The drivers for application security protection are usually aligned to these business reasons and prompt the following questions:

Cost-Effectively Secure the Company's Software Assets

- Improve AppSec and protect the business with a scalable cost model
- Does your current approach offer the lowest Total Cost of Ownership (TCO)?

Increase Speed of Secure Software Delivery

- Enable rapid and secure software delivery = DevSecOps
- Is application security testing an enabler or inhibitor to your software delivery?

Reduction of Risk Exposure

- Protect sensitive data, by reducing likelihood of breaches
- Are you doing enough to reduce risk exposure?

Achieve Regulatory Compliance Requirements to Protect Your Customers

- Demonstrate compliance with company and regulatory requirements such as GDPR, PCI-DSS, SOX, HIPAA, NYDFS, and/or Industry Standards like OWASP Top 10 and SANS 25
- Do you have internal application security policies?

Benefits of Scaling Testing

Saving money - Integrating security testing into the early stages of the software development lifecycle can produce a 7x cost reduction compared to the cost of finding those same issues in production. To drive application security testing earlier in the lifecycle requires the development team's involvement and automation. Development and QA teams already automate performance and functional testing, so we want to encourage those users to add application security to their testing practices and automate them.

Vendor Consolidation - HCL Appscan provides the most comprehensive types of application security testing on the market. We provide Dynamic Testing, Source Code Scanning, Open Source Testing and Interactive Analysis that are all part of our AppScan V10 release. Consolidating vendors can lower S&S costs, but it also provides a similar user experience so that resourced-challenged teams don't have to learn different tools.

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence - Given the resource challenges of these teams, we must provide fast and accurate scans that will save them time and the frustration of wading through false-positives/negatives. AppScan is the first vendor on the market that applied machine learning to our static analysis scans. Using this innovation has resulted in up to a 99% reduction in false positives, which could save the security and development teams thousands of hours per year.

Conclusion

In conclusion, application security needs to be a critical priority for your organization. The current state of the economy will only put more pressure on overworked appsec teams. AppScan provides the most comprehensive application security testing solution on the market and contains innovation to help teams like yours to deliver fast, accurate, and agile testing, saving you time and money.

Learn More

To learn more about how AppScan can empower your business, check out and share the resources below:

Blog: "5 Reasons to Invest in Application Security Testing"

Free Trial: HCL AppScan on Cloud

Blog: "Get a Green Light with Enhanced Application Security"

About HCL Software

HCL Software is a division of HCL Technologies (HCL) that operates its primary software business. It develops, markets, sells, and supports over 20 product families in the areas of DevOps, Automation, Digital Solutions, Data Management, and Mainframes. HCL Software has offices and labs around the world to serve thousands of customers. Its mission is to drive ultimate customer success with their IT investments through relentless innovation of its products. For more information, please visit www.hcltechsw.com.