

How a European Government Agency Saves Time + Sees More with Censys

A European government agency focused on threat intelligence had recently been looking for a way to upgrade and automate its threat detection efforts. The team has an important responsibility: to swiftly respond to security incidents and proactively address vulnerabilities across a wide range of partnering government agencies.

In order to do their job well, the team needs to map out and continuously monitor the attack surfaces of the agencies they support. Their existing processes could get the job done to an extent, but were heavily reliant on an assortment of general security tools and OSNIT techniques – a piecemeal approach that required significant manual effort. The agency's senior security analyst had attempted to script some of the team's information gathering motions himself, but recognized that other tools like Censys could offer the kind of automation they ultimately needed to gain long-term efficiency.

After considering their options, the agency turned to [Censys Attack Surface Management \(ASM\)](#), which they said stood out as the solution with the most mature capabilities of all the alternatives reviewed.

The Challenge

Reliance on a variety of disparate, manual tools and techniques

The Goal

Upgrade to a comprehensive, automated asset discovery and management tool

The Outcomes

- ✦ Reduced resource hours from 1 week to 20 minutes
- ✦ Increased visibility into all external-facing assets; closed knowledge gaps
- ✦ Gained ability to customize solution capabilities with APIs

What Is Censys Attack Surface Management?

Censys Attack Surface Management empowers security teams with continuous, automated discovery, management, and inventory of all of the external-facing assets in an organization's attack surface, including assets previously unknown. With Censys, teams can take a proactive approach to managing their attack surface and prioritize risks with context.

How Did the Agency Benefit?

Gaining Greater Asset Visibility

Uncovering previously unknown assets is one of the primary ways this government agency uses Censys Attack Surface Management. The solution's comprehensive, automated asset discovery and contextualized risk recommendations help the team identify and fill in the gaps that other tools like vulnerability scanners may have missed.

As the senior security analyst put it, **"Getting Censys is like getting brand new glasses; we can see stuff in the distance, and we've realized how much of a difference it was. We have a greater picture beyond just doing things manually."**

The team noted that when they first started using Censys, they uncovered a number of domain names across different entities which had previously unknown subdomains. In some cases, these newly-discovered subdomains were exposing data that was not intended to be public.

Working Smarter, Not Harder

After adopting Censys, the agency was also able to gain significant time savings. Rather than spending hours on basic, manual information-gathering efforts, automated discovery and management now frees up analysts to focus on higher order tasks and investigating risks.

According to their senior security analyst, "[Censys] saved us a lot of time; some of the enumeration things

we were doing before, **I would spend a week doing them and now I can do them in 20 minutes.** I have more time to keep on digging instead of doing the basics first. It's a timesaver in a way that is huge, and also when it comes to trying to figure out what's going on with a new vuln – what's the status quo, how can we help our customers if they're vulnerable? – that has become a lot easier."

The agency says they've also been able to respond faster to certain security situations because of the stronger asset and risk intel they pull from Censys ASM.

Leveraging Customization

The agency further notes the value they've realized through Censys ASM's ability to customize functions via API. As their senior security analyst put it: "Being able to work with the API gave us capabilities that weren't already in Censys. You have the ability to extend the capabilities of Censys and the data to a great extent."



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