UK’s largest property website, Rightmove, chooses WhiteHat to underpin web application security

Record-breaking web site traffic

Profile: UK’s number one property website
Situation: Requirement to support web application security throughout the SDLC
Solution: WhiteHat Sentinel Premium Edition Service

Rightmove’s website has been achieving an ever-increasing level of visits that are being converted into a record number of leads for member advertisers. With as many as 2,000 enhancements being made to its platforms in a 12-month period, a record 15.4 billion pages were viewed across all Rightmove’s platforms in 2014 (desktop and mobile), up 10% on 2013. Enquiries from home-hunters to advertisers increased by 19% to 42.8 million during the year and Rightmove’s popularity among consumers was highlighted when it was identified by Google as the most searched for business in the UK in 2014. Growth has continued into 2015 when traffic passed 1.5bn page views and 100 million visits in January, resulting in a record 4.3 million leads for our customers in the month.

The Rightmove customer base grew 5% during the year to a record high of 19,304.

Keeping Customer Data Secure

The Operations team at Rightmove is responsible for providing the technical infrastructure that supports the growing property website, helping to ensure that it continues to be the best in the UK. As such the emphasis is on maintaining a high performance, resilient and secure environment that gives customers a first-rate service. A top priority is having the right security in place to protect customer data and to preserve Rightmove’s trustworthy reputation.

Keeping the property website secure has always been an essential requirement and to safeguard the site Rightmove has regularly conducted penetration testing by external consultants. Operations Manager, Tim Harding explains, “As we have an increasingly agile development process, we wanted to add another level of protection that would monitor our security posture continuously and feed actionable intelligence into our security infrastructure and our development lifecycle. This will help us to meet our operational goals as well as deliver additional value to the business.”
WhiteHat Security's Sentinel Services

After investigating various options and visiting the Infosecurity show in London, Harding found that the approach he was looking for was available from WhiteHat Security, who provided monitoring and protection for over 30,000 web sites globally.

Whitehat Security’s Sentinel solution is unlike traditional website scanning software or consultants. It offers a simple and elegant solution to a complex problem for CISOs and security teams.

The service combines WhiteHat proprietary scanning technology with the world-renowned Threat Research Center (TRC) augmented by processes developed over 12 years to deliver a highly accurate, fully supported and cost effective application assessment service.

Customers need only provide the URL to be scanned along with the relevant credentials and WhiteHat will do the rest, populating the user interface with zero false positive vulnerability data. This includes remediation advice and access to the TRC for advice and guidance.

The service becomes an integral element of the customer’s security platform, providing clear actionable data. This data can be used manually by the security team and developers or automatically consumed by integrated security technology, such as Web Application Firewalls (WAFs) or Governance, Risk and Compliance (GRC) and bug tracking systems.

WhiteHat Sentinel is built on a Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) platform that scales from the smallest to the largest of enterprises. It offers compelling business efficiencies to lower the overall cost of website security.

Benefits for Rightmove

Rightmove deployed WhiteHat's Sentinel Premium Edition service at the beginning of 2014. The onboarding process was straightforward with WhiteHat providing valuable input to create the required customisation and integration.

The service runs in the background ensuring maximum coverage without impacting website performance. Everything the development team needs to identify and remediate a potential problem is notified first by email with further details available via a web portal. This enables issues to be logged and fixed prioritised as appropriate. The in-depth reporting and analysis supplied will enable the development team to continue to refine best practices when writing code and this will result in more resilient coding too.

Harding concludes, “With WhiteHat we have a solution that continuously helps us mitigate any web application vulnerabilities efficiently and effectively and the information provided now forms an integral part of the way we develop and deploy secure code.”

Working with WhiteHat has enabled Rightmove to safeguard data provided by its customers as well as to continue to provide the best quality of service to them.

About WhiteHat Security

Founded in 2001 and headquartered in Santa Clara, California, WhiteHat Security provides end-to-end solutions for application security. The company’s cloud website vulnerability management platform and leading security engineers turn verified security intelligence into actionable insights for customers. Through a combination of core products and strategic partnerships, WhiteHat Security provides complete application security at a scale and accuracy unmatched in the industry. WhiteHat Sentinel, the company’s flagship product line, currently manages thousands of websites – including sites in highly regulated industries, such as e-commerce, financial services and healthcare companies. For more information, visit www.whitehatsec.com.

About Rightmove

Established in 2000, Rightmove.co.uk is the UK’s number one property website and the only place UK home-hunters can search from over one million properties for sale and to rent. The Rightmove website and mobile platforms provide an easy to use, but sophisticated online property search. Given the depth of information that it provides, home hunters can immediately identify a preferred property.