



LEGAL CASE STUDY

Law Firm Takes Proactive Cyber Security Steps to Protect Sensitive Client Data

INDUSTRY: LEGAL

BUSINESS CHALLENGES

- Meeting requirements of multiple regulatory compliances, including PCI, HIPAA, NIST, and MA CMR 17:00
- Identifying scope of systems subject to each regulation
- Lack of internal team's training and experience in cyber threats

FORESITE SOLUTIONS

- IT security assessment
- IT security and compliance advisory services
- ProVision security monitoring and alerting

OPPORTUNITIES

- Compliance gaps were remediated
- Ongoing consulting aids in maintaining compliance as new locations added
- Outsourced network monitoring includes tools to manage log data, along with the human intelligence to confirm anomalous events, and respond to protect the firm's interests and keep the board confident

BACKGROUND

When the American Bar Association issued a formal warning to law firms that they were key targets of international cyber criminals, it came as no surprise to the partners and board members of a large law firm with multiple offices and a wide range of commercial and personal clients. Still, as is the case in many law firms, they were uncertain that their security measures met the highest standards necessary to protect the high value data of their clients' intellectual property, personal data, financial information, and health records.

They took immediate action. They charged the firm's IT director with hiring outside specialists who could help his team assess their current IT security best practices and applicable regulatory requirements compliance, and engaging these specialists in assisting his department in making recommended changes. Additionally, they pointed out the challenge of complications inherent in the firm's aggressive growth plans. Any newly acquired offices would need to be quickly brought under the same controls and managed from the same central office.

OBJECTIVES

- Confirm the types of data being transmitted and maintained to verify the regulatory compliance guidelines
- Verify scope of systems for each compliance requirement
- Provide recommendations for meeting compliance requirements while minimizing scope to control costs of meeting and maintaining compliance

- Engage specialists in PCI, HIPAA, NIST guidelines, and IT security to assist the firm's internal IT team with new compliance and security implementations, as well as network changes resulting from added locations
- Engage specialists to provide expertise and manpower on an as-needed basis to eliminate full-time expense

SOLUTIONS

Foresite's assessment first identified data types to confirm the regulations we needed to consider. We then compared the firm's existing state of current policies, procedures, and technical controls with appropriate requirements for compliance.

Because of the firm's proactive approach to IT security, many required controls were already in place. Still, network monitoring was a challenge for its IT team — a staff of only five full-time employees, none of whom had formal IT security training or experience handling emerging cyber threats.

We worked with the IT director on a proposal for ongoing assistance that was tailored to the firm's specific needs. It included:

1. Network security monitoring and alerting.
2. Incident response when the internal team needed to escalate investigation or remediation of a cyber incident to a trained security professional.
3. A block of consulting hours that the IT director could use at his discretion for assistance with project planning and implementation to ensure that new locations were brought on with the same high level of IT security.

We presented the solution to the firm's IT committee to confirm that it met the goals of all departments and made the case for proactive security to the board.

ABOUT FORESITE

Foresite is a global service provider delivering a range of managed security and consulting solutions designed to help our clients meet their information security and compliance objectives. In the face of increasingly persistent cyber-threats, Foresite's solutions empower organizations with vigilance and expertise to proactively identify, respond to, and remediate cyber-attacks and breaches where they occur.

Our team of industry veterans work as an extension of our clients' staff providing peace of mind while securing their most important assets. For more information, visit us at <http://foresite.com> or contact us at info@foresite.com.