A large insurer came to us with a problem. They needed to share some very sensitive health data with a vendor, so their law firm had hired a big four accounting firm to perform a cybersecurity review. The problem was, the report the insurer got back was not in-depth enough to confirm that the vendor had the proper protections in place. They turned to Foresite based on their own past experience with our cybersecurity testing and deliverables.

We reviewed the original report and discussed the data sharing requirements with both parties and recommended a full NIST and HIPAA cybersecurity audit, as well as social engineering and security testing of the custom portal where the data would be shared.

THE CLIENT HAD SEVERAL KEY OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PROJECT:

- Perform due diligence by verifying their proposed vendor’s state of cybersecurity and HIPAA compliance
- Work with the vendor to remediate any issues so that their project could begin
- Incorporate ongoing controls and testing to insure that cybersecurity continues to be maintained

WE HAD THE SOLUTION:

Due to the cross-training and experience of Foresite’s auditors, we were able to assign an auditor who is both a Healthcare Information Security and Privacy Practitioner (HCISPP) and well-versed in the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) cybersecurity frameworks. This streamlined the audit process as information could be gathered for both standards at the same time. In addition, a member of Foresite’s Cybersecurity testing team performed social engineering to confirm the vendor’s staff and hosted data center staff were adhering to the policies and procedures for access to data, and an Application Security specialist worked with the vendor’s Development team to verify that best practices were followed in creation of code, testing procedures, and data access, transmission and storage.

Although the vendor was understandably not happy to have to go through a second audit, in the end they expressed their appreciation for Foresite’s approach and thoroughness and helpfulness. We were able to make recommendations that not only help our client, but will benefit all of the vendor’s other clients as well. A year later, the vendor came back to Foresite to hire us for some of their internal testing based on their experience with us in the previous engagement.

THE FORESITE SERVICES INCLUDED IN THIS PROJECT WERE:

- 3rd party vendor or solution evaluation
- HIPAA and NIST Audit
- Penetration testing and vulnerability scans
- Application security testing

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.