How IronNet Bolstered the Cyber Defenses of a National Mortgage Lender

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—Vadim B, Vice President of Technology

BACKGROUND

One of IronNet Cybersecurity’s clients is a national mortgage lender focused on helping active military personnel, veterans, and their families achieve their financial and housing goals. The company’s mission is to ensure veterans and their families have access to valuable VA benefits and help them achieve financial security. Founded in 1999, the national mortgage lender has seen rapid growth and was ranked as a top 10 non-depository VA mortgage provider in 2014 by Inside Mortgage Finance.

CHALLENGE

Mortgage applications contain almost as much sensitive personal information as security clearance forms. As a rapidly growing firm in the loan industry, IronNet’s client is the steward of data from thousands of mortgage applications—the overwhelming majority of which come from retired and active-duty U.S. military service members, making the company a high-value cyber target. Consequently, the client knows that effective cyber defense is an essential component of its mission. A single breach could cause significant damage to its reputation and, most importantly, a loss of trust from its expanding customer base of veterans. With so little margin for error, the mortgage lender turned to IronNet Cybersecurity to ensure that its public-facing website, internal networks, and other critical assets were as strongly defended as possible.

SOLUTION

The national mortgage lender brought in IronNet Cybersecurity to perform a wide range of cyber assessments, penetration testing, and cyber defense training to minimize its cyber risk and to improve its cybersecurity top-to-bottom. First, as the mortgage lender prepared to launch a new public-facing website for its borrowers, IronNet’s highly skilled Red Team—made up of professionals with nation-state-level cyber experience—conducted comprehensive penetration testing, identifying potential weaknesses in the web site. Next, the IronNet team performed a comprehensive external penetration test against the mortgage lender’s IP network to identify areas to improve its defense. Finally, IronNet’s Red Team conducted a CIS Top 20 assessment of the lender’s cybersecurity controls and a lateral movement assessment to test its defenses against compromised user accounts and notional malicious insider threats.
RESULTS AND BENEFITS

IronNet’s contributions helped the national mortgage lender focus on its core business of helping veterans achieve their financial goals while giving the company peace of mind that its customer data is highly protected. “The IronNet team’s real-world experience combating the toughest cyber threats is simply unparalleled,” said the mortgage lender’s Vice President of Technology. “Its professionals are world class and their contributions to helping our company protect our customers’ data have been invaluable.”

The outcome of these engagements was a measurable improvement to the mortgage lender’s overall cybersecurity posture, a reduction in its attack surface, and a new one-year strategic roadmap to continue to enhance its cyber defenses. “IronNet continues to be a key partner for us,” said the Vice President of Technology. “We plan to work with IronNet every quarter to ensure that our cyber defenses keep up with an ever-evolving threat landscape.”