

CASE STUDY
State Government

The State of New Mexico

Treasurer's Office Secured Classified Information

CUSTOMER PROFILE

The State of New Mexico Treasurer's Office is a department of the state's government that oversees providing banking assistance and services to state agencies, validating bank activity, and managing and investing the state's operating cash, among other responsibilities. Simply put, the department is responsible for a large amount of private information.

"The greatest benefits we receive from the RiskSense Platform is the quickness in turnaround and visibility to information that you receive within the Platform, which is important for our small team."

– Brent Johnson,
CIO / IT Bureau Chief,
State of New Mexico



THE CHALLENGE

A few weeks after new Chief Information Officer Brent Johnson started at the State of New Mexico Treasurer's Office, the department experienced a data breach. All of their sensitive information had been compromised. Both Johnson and the board realized there was a clear need for better management of their cyber risk. They needed more transparency into their information and a more precise look at their security posture. At the end of the day, they needed to make sure a breach never happened again.

With a small team of just three other people, Johnson knew that they needed to bring in a solution that would help them manage all of their data. There was too much information for the team to accurately handle by themselves. The board and upper management agreed and created a budget to bring in a cyber risk management solution.

From working at another agency, Johnson had prior experience with RiskSense and their attack surface validation services. He decided to call RiskSense and brought them in to see if their services could help the Treasurer's Office prevent another damaging breach.

THE SOLUTION

After meeting with the RiskSense team, the State of New Mexico Treasurer's Office's board and upper management decided that they would make room in the budget to bring in RiskSense for Vulnerability Management to prevent a data breach from occurring again. RiskSense would come in to help Johnson and his team manage their large amount of security data, arrange remediation when needed, and observe the results. With more visibility into their secure information, the Treasurer's Office had a greater chance of preventing another breach.

When the department first implemented RiskSense, they started off by conducting an attack surface validation assessment. Previously the process was to have an annual scan that would report back any vulnerabilities found on their network that potential hackers could exploit. At this stage, Johnson was receiving everything by paper, which still made it slightly difficult for his team of four to manage all of their information.

The RiskSense Platform drastically improved remediation prioritization and validation times.

Shortly after, the office started to leverage the Vulnerability Management as a Service from RiskSense things became much simpler for the Treasurer's Office to manage their cyber risk and protect their sensitive information. The RiskSense Platform gives visibility to all of the departments and a better understanding of what is going on in each of their networks as well as detailed findings. This allows them to fix vulnerabilities in a more timely manner than ever before. This combination of expert scanning and support with the RiskSense Risk-Based Vulnerability Management Platform provides a near-real-time view from when the scan happens to when the information is available for Johnson's team to review online. This allows for immediate remediation.

THE RESULTS

Since partnering with RiskSense, Johnson and his team at the Treasurer's Office have been able to more effectively manage their cyber risk.

The RiskSense service allows them to have more transparency into what is going on with their data, which lets not only the team, but the board and upper management, to have superior visibility into detailed metrics and changing security posture.

The dashboards within the RiskSense platform clearly illustrate where their greatest vulnerabilities lie and provide easy steps for remediation. The RiskSense Security Score, or RS³, helps the team monitor and track their overall exposure to risk. The RS³ score is a great visual tool to provide to the board to show each department's security progress. The Treasurer's Office has found a lot of value in being able to clearly see where their biggest risks lie within their network, and it has helped them prove the value and obtain necessary budgets to stay protected.

Before RiskSense was brought in, when the team tried to fix a vulnerability, they often could not tell right away if it worked. They would have to wait for another audit or scan to come back before they knew that everything looked good. Now with this service Johnson is able to see almost immediately if the remediation was a success. They have RiskSense helping them with platform analytics and expertise in planning the most immediate remediation and patching activities.

Because of both the quickness in turnaround of information and the visibility that RiskSense provides, the State of New Mexico Treasurer's Office has been able to successfully secure their classified information and continue to support their community with confidence.

WHY RISKSENSE

Determine whether any of your business critical assets are at risk.

Gain insight on how your cyber adversaries operate based on RiskSense Platform threat intelligence and Proof of Compromise.

Synchronous delivery of findings in near-real time.

Get comprehensive recommendations for remediation actions.

Minimize your attack surface and cyber risk exposure.



Contact Us Today to Learn More About RiskSense

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