

CASE STUDY

3VB | CYBER SECURITY TESTING PROVES KNOWLEDGE IS POWER FOR LEADING LONDON LAW CHAMBERS



100%

CRITICAL & HIGH
VULNERABILITIES REMEDIATED

120

STAFF OPERATING
MORE SECURELY

<£85

INVESTMENT REQUIRED
PER CAPITA

3VB was motivated to significantly improve IT and security posture when a real ransomware threat targeted its network.

We recommended penetration testing to gain insight into what technical vulnerabilities currently existed. Our CREST accredited Penetration Testing services generate insight that we can use to inform which systems need the most attention, and how to go about protecting those systems against cyber threats.

Carrying out this type of testing is critical in order to achieve the kinds of objectives 3VB had – to give their whole approach to cyber security a boost.

Penetration testing finds system weaknesses vulnerable to exploitation and empowers you with the necessary insights to mitigate the risk of unauthorised access to your IT systems and information assets.



Key learnings + benefits

- Homemade web server applications can't be relied on for sufficient protection against common cyber threats. Uncovering previously unknown vulnerabilities enabled the chambers to take the necessary steps to remediate the issues, and heightened awareness of the need to enhance existing processes to **avoid repeating a risky situation**.
- The client completed the project with **a much deeper understanding of what comprises and impacts an organisation's security posture**. With this additional knowledge, they're better equipped to develop and evolve their cyber security strategy in the future.
- **Greater reassurance that the chambers' cyber security has been optimised** creates a positive ripple-effect across the whole chambers and beyond to its clients. Safe and confident in the knowledge that they're meeting government-approved standards to protect against the majority of common cyber threats, barristers and staff are able to free up valuable energy and resources that were previously absorbed by a combination of fear, uncertainty and doubt.

Why penetration testing?

The testing process identified several areas for improvement that had arisen through a false sense of confidence in homemade applications, that by their nature, are never very secure. Most likely, these vulnerabilities were not new – so it was always a matter of time until they were exploited. A number of old accounts that had not been fully shut down were also detected. It's these kinds of scenarios that represent a potentially devastating weakness in an organisation's overall IT infrastructure.

The good news is, they're quick and easy to fix.

The bad news is, you won't know about them until a testing report reveals the details.

Investing in penetration testing to get setup for plans to achieve Cyber Essentials+ certification will also take the pressure off for future compliance audits. Much like audits themselves, pen testing best supports a proactive attitude towards cyber security when it's carried out on a regular basis – we'll be ready to support 3VB with similar services next time the firm needs it.



"It's clear to us carrying out this type of testing is critical to our system integrity and in providing assurance to our clients."

STEWART THOMPSON,
CHAMBERS DIRECTOR, 3VB

Legal sector faces increasing pressure to do more than just tick a box for cyber security

- 61% of respondents in the Frontiers 2021: Legal IT Landscapes survey said they're seeing an increase in the number of clients performing security audits.
- More than ¼ said 'other law firms like mine' represent their firm's biggest commercial threat over the next five years.

Now's the time to differentiate with Cyber Essentials+.

Technologies and frameworks used

Cyber Essentials Scheme, CREST Accredited Penetration Testing



About 3VB

3 Verulam Buildings is one of the UK's principal sets of barristers' chambers, with 90 members specialising in a wide range of commercial law and practising both nationally, in other countries' jurisdictions and internationally. 3VB's legal excellence and the quality of service provided to its clients are praised in the leading law directories.

