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PORTCULLIS

Professional Services Overview



About Portcullis

Test. Respond. Consult. Research. These are our four areas of expertise.

Portcullis is not new to the security market place, with the foundations of our company dating back to the mid-80s. It is fair to say that a lot has changed over the past three decades, but the fundamental principles of why organisations perform information security have remained constant. Private information needs to remain confidential. There is a need to trust the integrity of information. That information needs to be available when it is required. Our areas of expertise deliver this.

Security testing tells our clients exactly where they stand with regards system security. What and how we test continues to change, but the motivations remain the same; our clients have questions, we deliver the answers.

Incidents can and do happen. When there is an issue, Portcullis can be relied upon to have the expertise to respond, manage and restore our client's faith in their own systems. The more that can jointly be done to refine this process ahead of time, the better.

Information security is not just about the tech, so much of the overall security posture is embedded in company culture, policy, process and standards. Working in business terms, our consultants can advise on how to overcome the challenges of today and tomorrow.

In order to keep our clients up to date, and to ensure we remain industry leaders Portcullis has, and always have had, a very strong commitment to research. Research benefits the community, our company and our clients. It costs, but it is worth it.

Across all service areas, our aim is to take the best consultants, understand what the client needs, wrap this skill and knowledge up in efficient processes and then deliver on our promises. Technical expertise alone is not enough; it has to be delivered effectively and for the right reasons.

One of the challenges of information security is the constant change; threats continue to evolve, the use of technology changes and business constantly wants better access to more information. Security cannot stand in the way of this. Portcullis enables our clients to take advantage of new concepts by helping them understand the risks and how to manage them.

You are in safe hands with Portcullis; we know what our clients want both today and tomorrow. The capability to deliver has been proven time and again for decades. We are tried, tested and proven.





Portcullis Professional Services Overview

We operate our business in four different complimentary areas; testing, response, consultancy and research.

Portcullis is a UK-based security consultancy, with offices in mainland Europe and the USA.

Incorporated over 20 years ago and with our foundations dating back to the mid-80s, it is fair to say that our growth has matched the development of information security as a profession. Our success over the years is based upon an appreciation of the fact that each of our clients will have unique requirements and that those requirements will evolve over time. By taking the time to understand those requirements, in some cases jointly forming them, and then delivering exactly what is required, we intend to remain successful for a long time to come.

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Testing

Penetration testing, vulnerability assessments, ethical hacking, assurance projects. There are lots of different terms for what is essentially the same thing; a technical security assessment. Portcullis has the capability to cover all types of infrastructure, applications (inc. mobile apps), mobility solutions, SCADA, etc. If a system does not readily fit into any of the normal categories, we will develop a new methodology.

Our entire approach is dictated by the need to retain flexibility; flexibility to meet our clients' diverse requirements and the flexibility to test a wide range of systems. Throughout pre-sales, we work hard to understand what our clients really need from the test, to fully understand the test target and to map out the attack vectors. All of our engagements are led by a consultant



who has the responsibility for intelligently applying the relevant test methodology to those attack vectors. Consultants are not confined to a particular tool set and draw on COTS, open-source and proprietary tools to deliver exactly what is required. If the right tool does not exist, they are always free to code something new or to conduct manual testing, thereby ensuring comprehensive coverage.

Portcullis is a subscriber to the CESG CHECK Scheme, a member of CREST and can certify to CBEST, PCI, Cyber Essentials and other industry standards.

Response

The fear of incidents is why organisations perform security in the first place and, despite best efforts to the contrary, incidents will continue to occur. It has been proved many times that the better the incident management, the lower the impact. This is not just IT impact either, it relates to lasting business consequences measurable in monetary terms. Good incident management does not just happen; it is about a cohesive, effective process, from the technician that pulls the log files, to the CIO or CISO making big decisions and the business reaching out to clients and media. Portcullis has the expertise to help organisations build, refine and test a robust incident management process.

When the worst does happen, Portcullis can help. Our incident response services are certified under the CREST Cyber Security Incident Response scheme. Cyber is a popular word at the moment and it is easy to assume that all incidents are related to international organised crime or state-sponsored espionage. Portcullis has the capability to handle these types of incidents, but instead we prefer to keep some perspective and work through a logical process to contain, understand

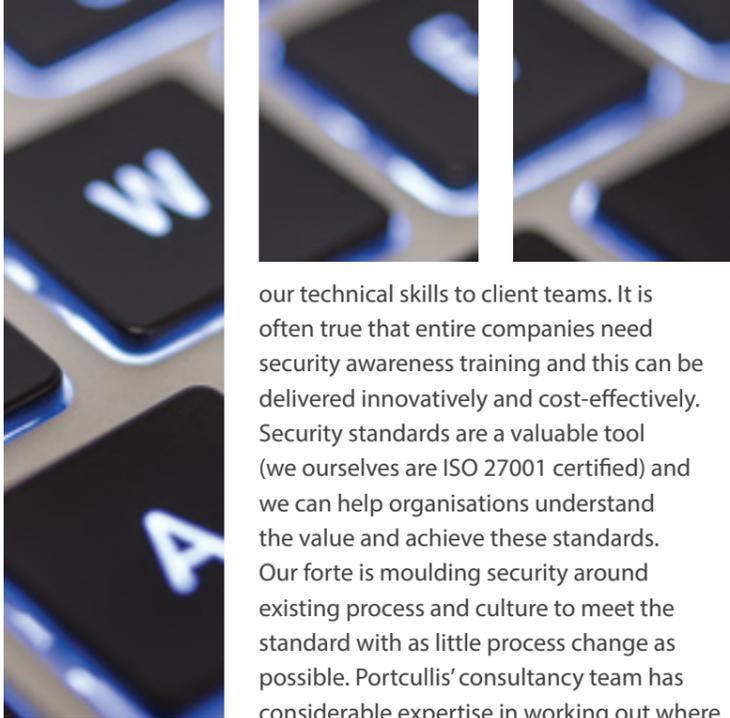
and rectify incidents, no matter the circumstances. There is no point in spending a huge sum on what transpires to be a system glitch. In addition to incident management, there is also the option to provide specialist resource into client teams for specific tasks, such as malware reverse engineering. The incident response team is comprised of highly skilled consultants, able to deliver at very short notice.

Portcullis can also provide innovative cyber health check services, which can be used as an assurance service to confirm that an organisation is not currently subject to compromise. With the ability to identify those discreet, sophisticated attacks, this service is a good option for security teams wanting to demonstrate to their colleagues that security is being handled effectively. Cyber health checks can be complimented with red-teaming exercises, to demonstrate the level of resilience to real-world attacks.

Consultancy

Portcullis excels in the technical arena, but this is not to the detriment of our ability to lead security at a business level. Consultancy can be used to provide a wrapper around our other service areas, for example, assistance in understanding and responding to the results of a penetration test. In other cases, it is an exercise in its own right, some examples of which are detailed below.

Many organisations aspire to have our technical skills in-house and our structured training programmes transfer



Tried.
Tested.
Proven.
That's
Portcullis.

our technical skills to client teams. It is often true that entire companies need security awareness training and this can be delivered innovatively and cost-effectively. Security standards are a valuable tool (we ourselves are ISO 27001 certified) and we can help organisations understand the value and achieve these standards. Our forte is moulding security around existing process and culture to meet the standard with as little process change as possible. Portcullis' consultancy team has considerable expertise in working out where organisations succeed in their approach to information security, where gaps remain and how to fix them. This could be a short task, such as writing a policy, through to engaging with the board to change the company's approach to information security.

Sometimes there is just a need for additional expertise. From the most technical database security architect through to a chief information security officer, Portcullis has a full range of staff that can quickly integrate into existing teams and immediately deliver value.

Research

Portcullis has a commitment to give at least as much back to the information security community as we take out. Without the security community, there would not be anywhere near the number of vulnerabilities identified and fixed in software. There is no catch-22 with security research; those vulnerabilities already exist. They will be exploited and without teams like Portcullis finding them, they will remain unfixed for much longer.

Whilst we will continue to sponsor our own research, we are also able to take on paid research for vendors, clients and special interest groups. The process remains much the same, but our clients get to choose the targets and timescales.

Working with us

Delivering quality services is about more than just technical skill. It starts from the moment that a client opens the conversation about a particular project. It is very easy for both parties to make an assumption about what is needed; however, it is vital to dedicate time to jointly shape the requirement, otherwise the engagement may not deliver the expected outcomes. With the engagement fully scoped and documented by one of our pre-sales consultants, the engagement gains momentum through scheduling and the completion of any mutual prerequisites. Only now are we in a position to actually start a piece of work.

We trust our staff to deliver, no question. However, humans are not infallible and to assume so would be to plan for failure. Wherever possible, projects are completed by a team of consultants; the natural exchange of ideas and on-the-fly quality assurance makes for a great engagement. Regardless, all engagements have managerial oversight and are subject to technical QA.

In many projects, the report is the lasting outcome by which the entire engagement will be judged. Portcullis is committed to delivering reports in plain English. Just because the work we do is very technical, it does not mean that this has to be reflected by an overly technical, inaccessible report. To ensure that those reports are pristine and uniform across all of our engagements, Portcullis has a dedicated editorial team who take responsibility for releasing documents that meet our high standards. Even once an engagement is formally closed, Portcullis is happy to make consultants available to answer questions and queries in order to deliver maximum value.

Why Portcullis?

Pedigree

Now in our third decade of delivering information security consultancy and widely recognised amongst the best, we know what it takes to excel. Portcullis' teams are unsurpassed and our R&D department ensures that we continue to set the standards others strive to follow.

Delivery

A successful engagement is judged end-to-end. Portcullis' account management, pre-sales operational and editorial teams combine to launch a project certain to succeed. Our consultants have the expertise to deliver and are supported by rigorous quality assurance to ensure a high level of client satisfaction.

Approach

To our clients, we are more than just a supplier; we are their trusted advisor, confidant and problem-solvers. Portcullis takes the time to support our clients, provide sound advice and form long lasting partnerships.

It takes all this and more to be tried, tested and proven.

Get in touch

We are keen to talk to you and discuss your security issues and find practicable solutions. Allow us to demonstrate why we are trusted by so many.

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