

Online Broker Streamlines Processes for Secure Development with SD Elements

Building security culture with SD Elements, training, and engineering expertise.

INDUSTRY

Financial Services

LOCATION

U.S.

Our client is a financial services firm that offers online stock trading, long-term investments, and retirement planning.

Challenge

Our client has been at the forefront of innovation in the financial services industry for over forty years. Since their inception, they have had the goal to transform the industry while empowering their customers to take control of their finances through an online trading platform. Their customers include active traders and long-term investors who use web, mobile and downloadable platforms to research stocks, plan trades, manage portfolios.

Ensuring security of products is essential for maintaining customer trust in the financial services industry and any breach could be very costly for our client and their end users. **That's why they were looking for innovative ways to automate their processes to ensure security is built into their products.**

Their teams relied on a scan and fix approach for addressing security risks. This approach had its limitations and could have resulted in high-risk applications being overlooked. They had very limited resources and lacked internal security expertise. As a result it was difficult for them to gather the know-how to build "security in" and truly "shift left". They wanted to transform from a reactive approach to a proactive one for software security.

Moreover, they had different groups within their organization using spreadsheets and emails to identify and track requirements and controls. There was no structure or consistency around repeatability and traceability. **They could not easily access the necessary content for identifying security and compliance requirements.**

Their new Director of Software Security, our key point of contact, realized that they needed to take a more comprehensive and streamlined approach to security and their software development life cycle. Their processes were cumbersome and needed to be standardized. **They needed to scale to create efficiencies, not only to save time and money, but also to ensure better security.**

SD ELEMENTS

"Security Compass continuously and consistently delivers a high level of engineering excellence."

— Security Program Leader

Solution

The Director of Software Security was very familiar with the team at Security Compass and the capabilities of SD Elements, as he had implemented the solution at a previous organization. **He knew SD Elements could help his new team streamline their processes, create more secure products, while facilitating a change in security culture.** The depth and breadth of our e-learning solution would also support in building internal expertise in a number of software security concepts.

Since our client had limited in-house expertise, they also leveraged our Enterprise Delivery Services (EDS) program to assist with their SD Elements implementation. The Security Compass team worked closely with the organization to develop an optimization plan with the goal of scalability, sustainability, and a cultural shift toward software security.

Our EDS consultants assisted with training, configurations, on-boarding applications, and integrations. They also helped with training the organization's program lead and impacted teams; adding and mapping custom content, providing guidance for on-boarding applications, and integrating their issue tracker (Jira) and validation tools (SAST/DAST).

As part of their roll-out strategy to the various development teams, including mobile, java, and web services, our consultants also provided training to each group regarding how to add and use specific content to assist with adherence to their required regulations. In addition, they collaborated with the program lead to develop custom reports for various internal audiences including management, development, and compliance teams.

As a result of their SD Elements implementation and use of training solution, they are realizing several benefits including:



Better security and compliance: SD Elements provides a more comprehensive solution for identifying and resolving risks and ensuring compliance. The robust knowledge base content is consistently updated by our research team to reflect the changing risk and compliance landscape, enabling them to reduce any associated risks and requirements across the various groups within their organization.



Scalability and consistency: Leveraging the expertise of the EDS team enabled them to more easily scale the solution across the organization. In addition to secure coding, they are now expanding the use of SD Elements to their risk assessment teams (infrastructure, cloud, application, and mobile) as a solution to optimize their risk assessment processes.



Building security culture and expertise: By using our enterprise training solution along with just-in-time training (JITT), they are building greater internal expertise. The built-in training feature provides developers with easy access to bite-sized training modules allowing them to learn about the specific security tasks required.

SD Elements and enterprise training solution enabled our client to standardize their SDLC processes, build internal expertise, and facilitate a cultural shift toward security awareness. They are now working with our Customer Success team to further optimize, automate and expand the use of the solution across the organization.

For more information on SD Elements, visit us at <https://www.securitycompass.com/sdelements>

Security Compass enables organizations to proactively manage cybersecurity risk without slowing down their business through balanced development automation.

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HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ More Secure Products
- ▶ Streamlined Processes
- ▶ Fast Development
- ▶ Scalable Solution
- ▶ Improved Security Posture

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