

Automating Red Team Activities at one of the World's Leading Investment Firms



Blackstone

- A leading global investment business managing \$545 billion in assets.
- A community leader and advisor for 200+ portfolio companies.
- As one of the world's leading investment firms, with 26 global offices and more than 5000 endpoints, Blackstone continuously validates its security controls with Pentera to identify and patch security breaches attackers can leverage for lateral movement.



Testing more frequently ensures you're protecting information that's going to have a massive financial and reputational impact if it ever gets out. We sleep better knowing that our security controls are operating effectively.



Adam Fletcher
CISO, Blackstone

KEY RESULTS

With network-wide discovery and increased automation, Blackstone reduced time to remediate from months to days, increased red team ROI and maintained consistent readiness. Blackstone invested in Pentera due to the novel idea of automated penetration testing and continuous validation. After reviewing many vendors, Blackstone wanted to try out the technology that truly automated the model of a human penetration tester – real-world, yet safe, exploitation. The team needed consistent validation that their security controls were preventing perpetrator access to the organization's crown jewels. They were also looking to reduce red teamer frustration and increase efficiency by automating the repetitive processes of finding vulnerabilities.

KEY CHALLENGES

Managing a distributed and hybrid network infrastructure, Blackstone needed a way to continuously automate its security validation process to prevent perpetrator access, remediate exposure and reduce red team monotonous tasks.

IDENTIFYING A NOVEL APPROACH TO SECURITY READINESS

4-6 month gaps between manual penetration tests left the security team at Blackstone uninformed about the effectiveness of their defense-in-depth security strategy and their ability to prevent lateral expansion in case of a data breach. In addition, red teams were working on monotonous tasks such as capturing credentials as opposed to challenging security strategies for the expanded attack surface and complex technology infrastructure. Repetitive labor made retention of top talent a difficult task.

AUTOMATED SECURITY VALIDATION WITH PENTERA

With Pentera, Blackstone is now able to run weekly tests, ensuring a repeatable consistent process for security gap discovery. The platform safely attacks the group's production networks, leveraging proprietary ethical exploits, emulating a rogue adversary trying to gain access to data and confidential information. Vulnerabilities are immediately patched.

IMMEDIATE REMEDIATION ACTION

Pentera's post-test summary provides Blackstone with a prioritized list that shows which vulnerabilities to fix and which are less important. They can then implement the list with IT or server management.

ENHANCEMENT OF EDR AND SIEM TOOLS

Blackstone runs Pentera automated security validation to validate EDR and SIEM tools. Pentera data is correlated to validate firewalls, malware detection and that all controls are working the way they were deployed.

HIGH ROI

Using Pentera's test automation capabilities provides a 20% increase in red teamers' productivity. The amount of time it takes for red teams to figure out targets and complete tests is significantly decreased through automation. In addition, the ability to quickly test on demand replaces the need to hire a large security team, which due to a scarcity of qualified candidates is often hard to find.

A NEW SECURITY STRATEGY TO ACCELERATE VULNERABILITY REMEDIATION

Pentera is integrated into Blackstone's security strategy by providing continuous validation as part of their overall security lifecycle. Pentera helps the team achieve the internal goal of knowing that the investments they've made, the technologies they implemented, and the security controls they chose are all working and protecting the organization. This improves their security posture and provides them with peace of mind.



Pentera is a novel idea. In 3-4 years, automated penetration testing will be as ubiquitous as having a vulnerability scanner.

If you're a CISO and you want continuous validation, to retain your top talent, and to facilitate more frequent red team penetration testing, you're going to want something like Pentera.



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ABOUT BLACKSTONE

Blackstone is one of the world's leading investment firms. It seeks to create positive economic impact and long-term value for its investors, the companies it invests in, and the communities in which it works. Blackstone does this by using extraordinary people and flexible capital to help companies solve problems. Its assets management businesses, with over \$340 billion in assets under management, include investment vehicles focused on private equity, real estate, public debt and equity, noninvestment grade credit, real assets and secondary funds, all on a global basis.

ABOUT PENTERA

Pentera is the category leader for Automated Security Validation, allowing every organization to test with ease the integrity of all cybersecurity layers, unfolding true, current security exposures at any moment, at any scale. Thousands of security professionals and service providers around the world use Pentera to guide remediation and close security gaps before they are exploited.