

THE MUNICIPALITY OF HALDERBERGE IN CONTROL OF INFORMATION SECURITY WITH GUARDIAN360

'We want to gain more insights and more control over the way in which we secure our information. Guardian360 gives us the control we so desperately need in order to deal securely with data from the municipality, its citizens and institutions,' says Fons van Oosterhout, CISO Municipality of Harderberge. Fons explains how Guardian360 guards the large amount of privacy-sensitive information that the municipality has and how it complies with a number of important security standards. He also explains how the municipality uses the weaknesses in the infrastructure to make the new ICT environment even more secure.



Gemeente
Halderberge

Fons van Oosterhout, CISO Municipality Harderberge:
With the services of Guardian360 we create awareness about how safe we really are when it comes to attacks from outside, but also for threats from within.

GUARDIAN  360°



OUR WEAKNESSES MAKE US STRONGER

Fons explains: 'The drive for insight in our digital security has prompted us to look for a platform that could help us acquire these insights. Guardian360 gives us fully automated insights in the actual vulnerabilities in our infrastructure. Our internal systems, but also the internet facing IT components like IP-addresses and websites, are continuously scanned and monitored for this purpose. With the deployment of Guardian360 we've created awareness on how secure we really are when it comes to attacks from the outside, but also about threats from within. Think of a criminal trying to get in, but also of weak passwords that are used by our staff, on which we are now taking targeted action. Precisely by recognising our weaknesses, we make our infrastructure stronger!

'The fact that other municipalities are also using the Guardian360 platform gave us enough confidence to start right away.'

The Guardian360 partner that assists us in making our environment even more secure, has conducted an interview to find out our needs. Their experts consult us on information security and supply products that meet our needs. Based on our wishes, Jan Martijn Broekhof from Guardian360 joined us at the conference table. What I remember from this conversation is that Jan Martijn was immediately able to distinguish sense from nonsense. After 10 minutes we had a clear idea of the approach together. And that's quite a challenge as our entire IT landscape will be rebuilt from scratch in the coming years. Especially then, in such a confused intermediate phase, information security is important. We must not lose focus. Another advantage is that we use the insight that Guardian360 gives us in the selection and design process of new ICT solutions. So, the vulnerabilities we now see are weaknesses that should not be allowed to arise in a new environment!

REQUIREMENTS MUNICIPALITY OF HALDERBERGE

- Comply with International ISO27001 norm, GDPR law and Dutch standards BIO and DIGID
- Insights in one single pane of glass
- Continuous scanning and monitoring IT-infrastructure and websites
- Reducing audit pressure
- Partnership with supplier
- End-user support
- Scaling up and down when required

SOLUTION

- Continuous vulnerability scanning with multiple scan engines
- Web application security
- Compliancy module: ISO27001, GDPR, BIO and DIGID
- User-friendly dashboard



NO PILOT, JUST BEGIN

Jan Martijn Broekhof (Guardian360) explains: 'The municipality of Halderberge deliberately did not opt for a pilot, as Guardian360 exactly met its wishes. The fact that other municipalities also use the platform gave enough confidence to start right away, without a proof of concept. Fons notes: 'That was a conscious choice. A pilot often arouses a lot of resistance. People put a lot of time into making a new

product their own, while no one has the guarantee that the application will actually be implemented. In combination with the high workload of many colleagues - and the fact that I had confidence in Guardian360 and their partner - I opted for a direct implementation. Of course, that was exciting. I also want to set up a successful project. Thanks to the efforts of all those involved, the implementation went flawlessly and entirely according to plan.

'Another major advantage is that the mandatory testing of our systems and websites (audits) now runs smoothly. We give auditors quick access to the relevant reports they need for testing.'

FROM AN AVALANGE OF DATA TO INSIGHTS THROUGH OVERVIEW

As a municipality you have to deal with a lot of standards in the field of information security. Examples include ISO27001, DigiD, SUWI, BIO (Baseline Information for Dutch Government) standards and OWASP guidelines. Because the municipal ICT environment was monitored for all standards from the start, the municipality of Halderberge received a little too much information on the management dashboard. Fons adds: 'That was stressful in the beginning. We got so many reports, but how do you interpret them? The pursuit of safe data and information must remain relevant and manageable.

THE MUNICIPALITY OF HALDERBERGE

The Municipality of Halderberge, in the middle of the green heart of West-Brabant, is a municipality of five characteristic villages. Inhabitants, associations and organizations create the common identity. The municipality of Halderberge has an area of approximately 7,500 hectares, almost 30,000 inhabitants and consists of the nuclei Bosschenhoofd, Hoeven, Oud Gastel, Oudenbosch and Stampersgat.

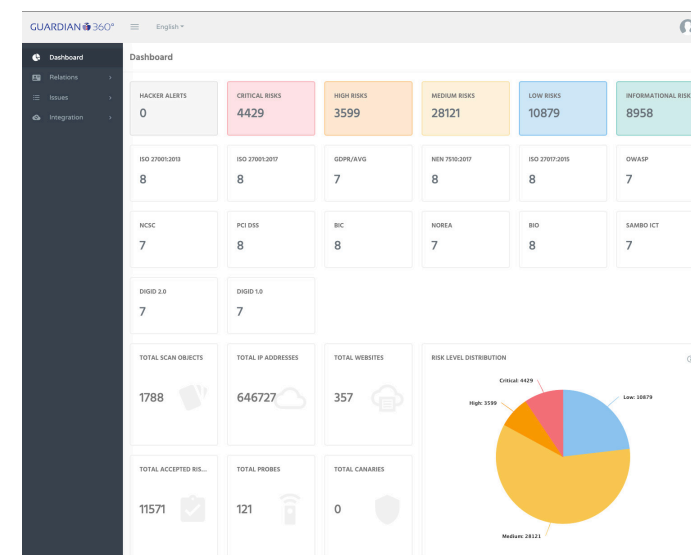
www.halderberge.nl



By relevant I mean that some deviations from the standards are not defined as vulnerable to us. The system is now being set up based on our interpretation of those standards. In short, what is a weakness for us and what should we do something about. Now that we have prioritized the deviations and reports, we not only have insight, but also confidence in our infrastructure. Another major advantage is that the mandatory testing of our systems and websites (audits) now runs more smoothly. We give auditors quick access to the relevant reports they need for testing. This saves a lot of time for all parties.

ANALYSE AND INTERVENE

Now we make our own daily analysis of vulnerabilities and threats based on the list and draw conclusions. What needs action now? Who takes this action? Where we pick up as much as possible ourselves. As a partner regularly sits at our table to discuss how we can deal with certain reports and to work together to continuously optimize information security. What I also like is that Guardian360 is open to ideas from users. All suggestions are welcome, are noted and often placed on the roadmap. In this way, the package is actually carried by the users. Together with Guardian360, we assess networks for vulnerabilities and intervene where requested and necessary. Performing a penetration test once a year, say taking just one picture of your IT environment, is not an option. Continuously taking pictures, or recording a video is how you should look at information security from my point of view. The Municipality of Harderberge has understood this.



GUARDIAN360

Guardian360, based in The Netherlands in Utrecht and Rotterdam specializes in increasing information security of complex IT-environments. The Guardian360 team consists of certified security engineers and web developers with years of experience within the information security sector.

www.guardian360.net

WWW.GUARDIAN360.NET | INFO@GUARDIAN360.NET | +31 (0)88-225 15 00