RSA ARCHER SUITE POWERS KAUST'S INNOVATIVE RISK OWNERSHIP PROGRAM

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH DRIVING GRC

With the overt desire to continue to climb the ratings as a global research institution, comes the acceptance of being an increasingly attractive target for cyber criminals wanting to steal intellectual property.

Ed Sleiman, KAUST's information security manager, explained, "Our organization is driven by objectives set by the president on an annual basis; and governance, risk and compliance (GRC) is a top mandate. The 'business' of KAUST's education and research is driving our security strategy. GRC is critical for us because of all the ground-breaking information that's being produced by our researchers. It's my team's duty to ensure that it is protected and all potential risks are mitigated."

LONG-TERM LEADERSHIP

KAUST initiated investigations into identifying a GRC solution to enable Sleiman's staff to scale with the university's growth. "Before we purchase any product we always look

---

"To continue to compete with other universities for world-class researchers our commitment to security and in particular GRC will not waiver. In selecting a trusted partner, we looked for reliability, longevity and proven support, and that's what we found in RSA Archer Suite."

Ed Sleiman, Information Security Manager, KAUST

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Founded in 2009 and located in Thuwal, Saudi Arabia, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) is a private, preeminent research university. Its mission is to be a catalyst for innovation, economic development and social prosperity in Saudi Arabia and across the globe. In 2016, the Nature Index Rising Stars - a list of ascendant performers in the world of scientific research – ranked KAUST as 19th in the world for high-quality research output.

Currently, over 100 nationalities are represented in the university's student body. Its staff is comprised of many world-renowned researchers in fields such as oil and gas, desert agriculture, marine biology, and solar energy.

at research – like Gartner, IDC, Forrester, etc. – to understand which vendors to invite to perform a proof-of-concept (POC)," recounted Sleiman. "When we looked into RSA Archer Suite it proved to be the main contender, having been in a leadership position in the analysts' assessments for some time, giving us tangible proof of its capabilities."

Sleiman's team evaluated RSA Archer Suite against a shortlist of two other vendors' offerings and chose the RSA solution not only for its functionality but also because of the company's staff. He reflected, "I like to be educated about concepts – not just about product features – and that's what really differentiated RSA; the pre-sales consultants helped me understand what the suite can do across the entire portfolio of security services my organization provides. RSA Archer Suite delivers the adaptability, ecosystem, breadth and depth we need for a best-in-class GRC operation."

HUMAN FIREWALL PROGRAM SUCCESS

RSA Archer Suite helped Sleiman in achieving his goals for the human element of KAUST, he described, "It's widely recognized that the risk associated with people inadvertently clicking on links to phishing attacks is one of the greatest. So I decided to create 'The Human Firewall Program' to elevate awareness, increase training, and make everyone responsible for owning this risk. The flexibility of the RSA Archer Suite enabled us to customize a complete solution that fueled the program, helping it to be a major success."

Wanting to have everyone enrolled in owning risk, Sleiman configured context-specific views: "RSA Archer Suite allowed me to create one dashboard for each type of role. Employees in technical roles have their own dashboards, middle management have another, and senior managers are provided with a unified view that enables them to understand the security posture of the entire organization, with the ability to drill down into lower-level detail if they wish to," noted Sleiman.

FASTER TIME TO VALUE

Governance, risk and compliance has become far more than an annual mandate, it will remain a top priority. Sleiman shared, "To continue to compete with other universities for world-class researchers our commitment to security and in particular GRC will not waiver. In selecting a trusted partner, we looked for reliability, longevity and proven support, and that's what we found in RSA Archer Suite. It has enabled us to implement exactly what we want and facilitated us achieving our goals much faster than we had predicted."

He concluded, "Partnership is very important in in my book. As an ISO 27000 certified organization, strict vendor management is part of the deal; we have to always assess and make sure that our vendors are up to standard, particularly when dealing with security. With RSA we have a partner that we trust and will continue to work with on our neverending information security journey.

"With RSA we have a partner that we trust and will continue to work with on our never-ending information security journey."

Ed Sleiman, *Information Security Manager, KAUST*

ABOUT RSA

RSA offers business-driven security solutions that uniquely link business context with security incidents to help organizations manage risk and protect what matters most. RSA solutions are designed to effectively detect and respond to advanced attacks; manage user identities and access; and, reduce business risk, fraud, and cybercrime. RSA protects millions of users around the world and helps more than 90% of the Fortune 500 companies thrive in an uncertain, high-risk world. For more information, go to rsa.com.

RSA®