

SUCCESS STORY

COP26

Identity Events Management, the agency contracted to deliver the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), needed to ensure that their defences were secure for the conference.

Sector International Summit

Solutions Penetration Testing & Phishing Simulations

Identity Events Management, the agency that was selected to deliver United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow had to facilitate over 40,000 on-site attendees including world leaders, government representatives, businesses, citizens, and the media.

Identity developed and delivered ‘the largest and most complex hybrid event solution the world has seen,’ as well as providing a dedicated team to deliver exhibition organisation and build services to over 180 countries.



The Challenge

As the largest event ever staged by the UK Government, COP26 extended beyond governmental meetings and negotiations to include press conferences, working spaces, a full media centre, bilateral rooms, a film screening amphitheatre, expo-style areas, and exhibitor zones.

With so many high-profile delegates attending and important climate discussions taking place, it was imperative that their cyber security was tested thoroughly, and without impacting the experience of the delegates.

Learn more at [cyberlab.co.uk](https://www.cyberlab.co.uk)



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The Solution

To provide assurance to both internal stakeholders and the Cabinet Office security team, we decided on a two-pronged approach including phishing simulations and penetration testing the event platform.

Our team of expert consultants developed a comprehensive penetration testing plan specifically for the COP26 digital platforms, beginning with an external unauthenticated penetration test.

When running unauthenticated penetration tests, we do not provide our penetration testers with credentials to authenticate with the application. This approach allows us to emulate how a real-world threat would approach the target systems, and to evaluate exactly what is exposed to an attacker and whether they would be able to gain unauthorised access.

We followed this up with a round of authenticated testing where we provided our testers with credentials to authenticate as each of the user roles. This allows us to identify vulnerabilities that could be exploited within the application itself, such as allowing for the elevation of privilege or lateral movement within the system.

Once the penetration testing stage of the project was complete, we began to focus on the weak link in any organisation – people.

We ran an advanced phishing simulation campaign involving every Identity employee, before following up with an analysis of how well they fared through the simulation, and supplying resources on how to spot and report phishing emails to keep the channel secure.

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The Outcome

With the results and analysis of their penetration tests, Identity could take peace in the knowledge that their systems were secure against a potentially debilitating cyber attack at critical time.

COP26, which had received numerous cyber security threats in the run up to the conference, was executed without any major cyber attacks reported. The Glasgow Climate Pact was signed on 13th November 2021 by 197 national delegates.

Identity went on to deliver other successful national events, including the Coronation of King Charles III on 6 May 2023.

"We were delighted to be involved in the security testing surrounding the United Nations Climate Change Conference, and to work alongside Identity as they delivered a highly complex hybrid event solution. At CyberLab, working securely from anywhere is ingrained in our company, and this event really encapsulated this new way of working and accessing events."

Gavin Wood, CEO, CyberLab



ABOUT THE SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FEATURED

Penetration Testing

Penetration Testing is a way to identify vulnerabilities before attackers do, evaluate how effectively you can respond to security threats, assess your compliance with security policies, and improve the level of security awareness amongst your staff.

Our team of CREST, CHECK, and Cyber Scheme approved engineers undertake ethical attack simulations to uncover areas of concern in your infrastructure, policies, and procedures.

Using a third party to test your systems allows them to 'think like an attacker' and bring a fresh perspective to pinpointing weak points in your defences and highlight areas that can be improved using your existing security technology.

Incorporating regular testing into your planning helps you to stay on top of your security posture, preserve your brand, and maintain regulatory compliance to standards and regulations including GDPR, PCI DSS, and ISO 27001.

Phishing Simulations

Phishing attacks are the single biggest cyber threat that all businesses face today and the problem is getting worse. Phishing is a type of social engineering attack, where an attacker sends a fraudulent email to a victim with the aim of triggering a response, such as revealing sensitive information, triggering a malicious payload such as ransomware, or even voluntarily transferring funds to the attacker's account.

Your users can either be your first line of defence or your weakest link. Phishing simulations empower your people to detect and avoid phishing attacks within a safe environment.

Enhance your team's security awareness with effective simulations leveraging real-world threats that your users encounter.

Exclusive to CyberLab Control, our cyber security as a service platform that delivers a suite of tools with expert guidance and support, all wrapped up in a user-friendly portal.

CyberLab Control also including vulnerability scanning, security awareness training, and dark web breach monitoring.

Our People. Our Platform. Protects You.

CyberLab is a specialist cyber security company that provides a wide range of security solutions and services.

Your one-stop cyber security advisor, the CyberLab team is equipped with the right technology, knowledge, and expertise to help businesses of all sizes, including large public sector organisations.

By leveraging world-class technology, decades of experience, and our vendor partnerships, we have helped to secure thousands of organisations across the UK.

Our unique Detect, Protect, Support approach makes us the perfect partner to review and reenforce your cyber security defences.



Speak With an Expert

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