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NCSC Commercial Product Assurance (CPA) Re-Evaluation of Amulet Hotkey

How BSI Cyber Lab evaluated Amulet Hotkey's security products to achieve CPA certification and meet NCSC's standards.

In brief
Amulet Hotkey develops products and technologies that deliver mission-critical Remote Workstation Solutions for the finance, military, and media sectors, providing world-class support for clients and customers. Their Zero Client security products are lightweight, stand-alone, remote-desktop devices that enable a user to connect to a remote host computer or virtual desktop, using the PC over IP (PCoIP) protocol.

The benefit
The formal evaluation reports highlighted several findings and improvement opportunities for Amulet Hotkey, which the group then resolved and addressed. This improved the security of the Zero Client products, thus reducing future efforts and costs effectively and efficiently.

CPA certification is one of the significant distinguishing factors for any security product. It is often mandated for HMG procurement, which naturally opens new prospects. Their CPA evaluation process involved a formal review of the security of the product lifecycle covering development, deployment, and assurance maintenance.

The principal benefit of being awarded NCSC CPA certification of their Zero Client products is the public recognition that a third party has independently and impartially tested these security products. As a result of the comprehensive evaluation service provided by the BSI Cyber Lab, Amulet Hotkey continues to experience the countless commercial benefits of NCSC CPA certification, including customer satisfaction.

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The challenge

The CPA evaluation assesses and then evaluates the full Software (and Hardware) Development Lifecycle for the Zero Client products in scope. Amulet Hotkey had initially started the CPA re-evaluation with another Test Lab that had completed the original CPA Evaluation two years earlier. However, there were various delays during the evaluation, and then the original Test Lab unexpectedly ceased operation at short notice.

Consequently, Amulet Hotkey faced a significant challenge in obtaining all previous evaluation documentation from the original Test Lab and providing it to the BSI Cyber Lab within tight timescales. BSI Cyber Lab faced the challenge of sourcing an evaluator capable of developing a fuzz testing tool to complete the testing evaluation.

The solution

The BSI Cyber Lab formally applied to NCSC to perform a CPA evaluation of the Zero Client product on behalf of Amulet Hotkey. Due to independence and impartiality requirements, the CPA Evaluators did not produce any documentation for Amulet Hotkey. During the evaluation, BSI worked with Amulet Hotkey to update some enhancements. BSI's Cyber Lab Evaluators helped them to verify their plans and reports, including - Assurance Plan, Build Standard Validation Report, Evaluation Summary Report, Security Procedures, and Assurance Maintenance Plan, leading to successfully gaining final approval by NCSC Certifiers. The result was a CPA certificate being awarded to Amulet Hotkey with an upgrade to NCSC accreditation.

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Why BSI?

At BSI, we approach evaluations methodically to distinguish the technology in use, supporting policies and risk mitigations. This allows us to assign the precise resources with the abilities and experience to deliver evaluations as proficiently as possible.