



Appknox Case Study

Elevating mobile app security for a global leader in oil and gas

Here's how Appknox slashed their vulnerability assessment time and effort by 80%

Overview



Challenge

As a leading global oil and gas leader with a vast portfolio of mobile apps, the company faced significant challenges in managing the security of its extensive app ecosystem, including a need for more visibility into its application inventory, which hindered its efforts to maintain a robust mobile app security posture.



Solution

Appknox addressed the company's security challenges with a centralized platform for automated vulnerability assessment and rigorous compliance testing which helped it gain visibility into its app inventory, facilitate cross-regional collaboration, and overcome the issue of false positives in security assessments.



Results

Implementing Appknox had a transformative impact on the organization's security posture and operational efficiency.

The centralized visibility and prioritized remediation resulted in substantial time and cost savings. It enhanced the overall security of the organization's mobile applications and the sensitive data they handle and reduced the time required to assess vulnerabilities to less than 90 minutes.

What Appknox helped achieve

- 01 Identification of vulnerabilities before exploitation with a 50-70% reduction in detection time.
- 02 A simplified process for detailed insights into the components reduced the time and effort spent on maintaining logs by 70-80%.
- 03 Upfront cost savings on security infrastructure. The pay-as-you-go model aligned with usage, potentially saving 10-20% on security costs.

Client profile

INDUSTRY

Oil and gas

SERVICE LOCATION

United Kingdom

HEADQUARTERS

London

REVENUE

\$300+ Billion

EMPLOYEES

8000+

SECURITY TEAM SIZE

10-15



About the company

Headquartered in the Netherlands, this global energy conglomerate is one of the world's leading private limited energy companies, operating in over 70 countries.

Known for its expertise in upstream, downstream, and integrated gas, the company has diversified into renewable energy, chemicals, and mobility, positioning itself as a leader in the transition to sustainability and serves millions of customers worldwide.

The challenges

The company operated a vast portfolio of mobile apps that served as crucial customer and internal touchpoints. However, managing the security of this extensive app ecosystem posed significant challenges, including a lack of visibility into their application inventory.



Lack of visibility into app inventory and components

The organization had a discrepancy between the number of applications on app stores (400) versus the number of licensed applications (90). This resulted in lack of awareness of app components, hindering vulnerability identification and mitigation due to an incomplete view of their attack surface.



Challenges with collaboration and data silos

As a globally distributed team, the organization faced difficulties in collaborating and validating security data. A centralized platform could have provided a unified view of security assessments across regions, enabling better coordination and decision-making among the teams.



Inability to effectively monitor and manage apps on app stores

The organization lacked control over the apps on the app stores that belonged to them but had never been tested. Lack of effective monitoring capabilities impeded detecting new threats and vulnerabilities as they emerged, and ensuring that all their apps were properly secured before release.

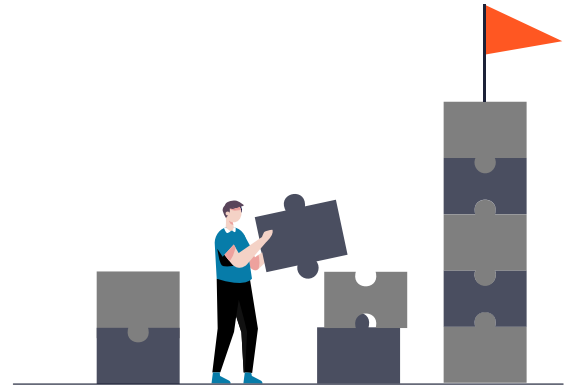


Dealing with false positives in security assessments

The organization had previously faced issues with false positives in their security assessments. A combination of automated vulnerability assessment and manual penetration testing could have helped them overcome this challenge by providing more accurate and actionable security insights.

The solution

Recognizing the need for a comprehensive mobile app security solution, the organization implemented a centralized platform that offered automated vulnerability assessment with capabilities to automate inventory tracking and manual penetration testing. The following are the top solutions that Appknox provided to the oil and gas company:



Comprehensive visibility into app inventory and components

Appknox's Software Bill of Materials (SBOM) feature provided the global oil and gas leader with detailed insights into the components and dependencies within their mobile apps.

This transparency allowed them to identify potential vulnerabilities or risks arising from third-party components, enabling them to make informed decisions to mitigate supply chain threats.



Effective monitoring and management of apps on app stores

Appknox's store monitoring capabilities helped them stay on top of their entire app portfolio, detecting new threats and vulnerabilities as they emerged.

This allowed Shell to ensure that all their apps were properly secured before release and maintained control over the 32 apps on the app stores that belonged to them but had never been tested.



Reduced false positives in security assessments

Appknox's combination of automated vulnerability assessment and manual penetration testing helped overcome the issue of false positives in their security assessments.

The platform provided more accurate and actionable security insights, allowing the organization to prioritize and address vulnerabilities effectively.



Enabled collaboration and eliminated data silos

Appknox's centralized platform offered the organization a unified view of security assessments across regions, enhancing efficiency and security. This enabled better coordination and decision-making among Shell's globally distributed teams, overcoming challenges with collaboration and data silos.

The impact

After integrating Appknox in early 2022 in the security assessment workflow, the global oil and gas leader was able to add Appknox’s robust vulnerability assessment capabilities and have detected a total of 3000 vulnerabilities till date with 90 minutes being spent on each application.



Parameter	Before Appknox	After Appknox	Savings/Benefits
Productivity	Lack of visibility into app inventory and components	Improved risk identification cements supply chain security	Upto 80% less time spent on inventory mapping
Collaboration effort	Dispersed teams struggle with coordination and communication	Collaboration dashboard for real-time collaboration leads to better turnaround time	Upto 70% less time spent on unnecessary back-and-forth
Time and effort	On-premise installations require upfront investment	Faster development cycles and quicker time-to-market for new features and updates.	Up to 90% reduction in testing time

KEY INSIGHTS

51

Vulnerabilities in 1st Scan

341

Applications Analysed

15

Critical Scan



Appknox's visibility and automation have dramatically improved our mobile app security and reduced risks. We've benefitted the most from the SBOM feature that has saved our security and development teams a lot of time and effort in maintaining component inventory.

- Senior Specialist, Cyber Security Office

The Appknox advantage

Appknox is an enterprise-grade security platform that helps developers, security researchers, and enterprises build a safe and secure mobile ecosystem faster with automated security checks.

THE APPKNOX IMPACT

<90 mins

comprehensive automated VA

<1%

false negatives

8+

compliances



Trusted by Gartner, loved by enterprises

- ✓ Recognized in Gartner Peer Insights Voice of Customer
- ✓ Gartner Hype Cycle for Application Security
- ✓ Gartner Notable Vendor

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superior scalable security
with Appknox today.**

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