

# Cryptocurrency marketplace and smart-contract Security

## Black Box Security Assessment



**Solution/Service Title**

Security Testing for Platform for money transfer operations, Cryptocurrency marketplace, Solidity based smart-contract security audit

**Client Industry**

Blockchain and bitcoins money transferring and exchanging

**Client Overview**

A Hong Kong based Fintech company that provides a secure web and mobile platform for money transfer operators, send and receive cash remittance payments to over 100,000 cash out locations globally.

**Client Challenge**

Recent data breaches of popular cryptocurrency marketplaces and bitcoin wallets made a client interested in security testing of financial transactions and platform security to avoid security issues in the future and ensure safety of clients data

**Scope**

Solidity based Smart-contract, IT infrastructure, Web Application, subdomains, API, Mobile application

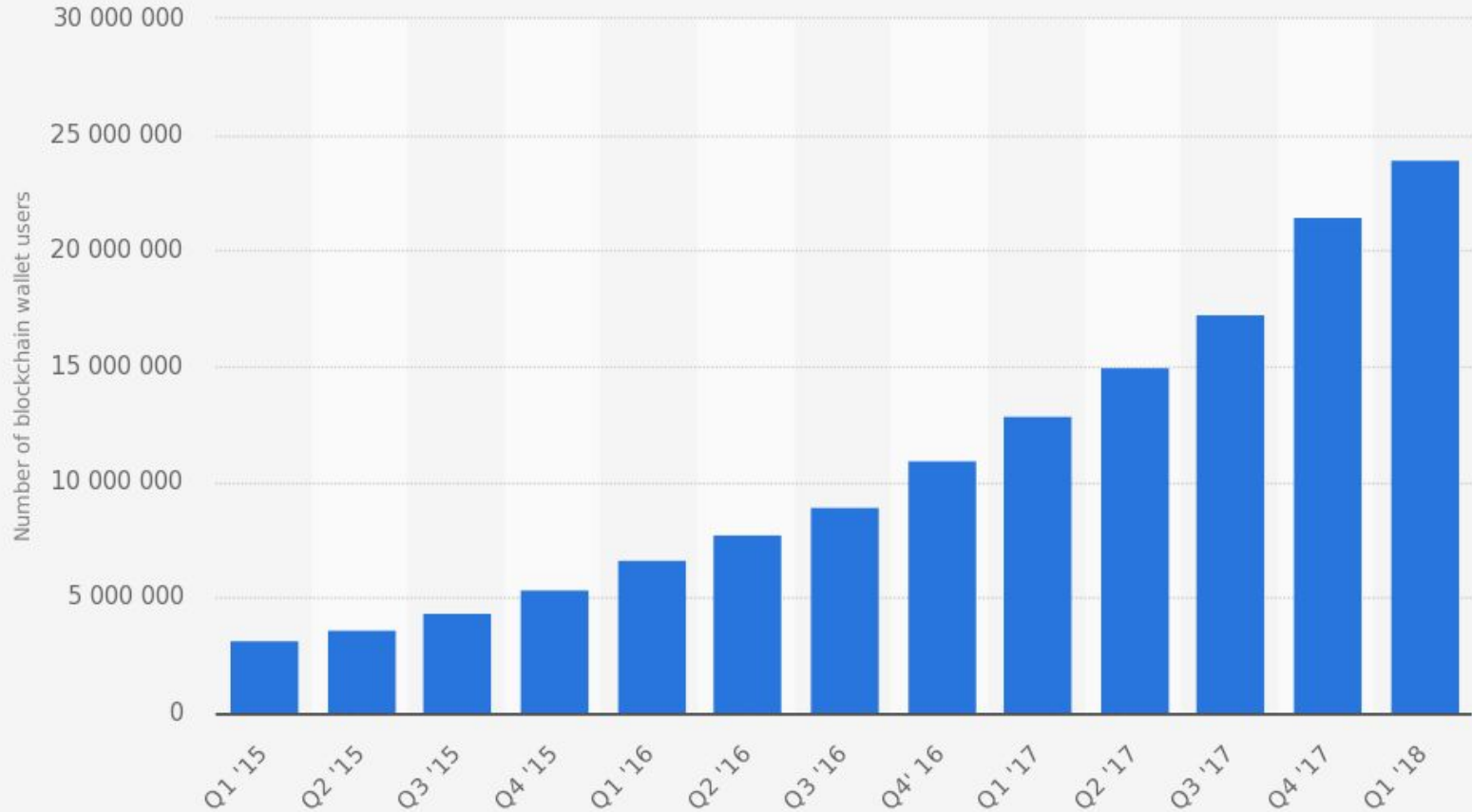
**Key Benefits**

Independent security audit/review allowed our client to avoid data breach, improve IT/Security processes and follow best practices.

**Results**

Discovered critical and high issues could lead to full application compromise, unauthorized financial transaction and lost of clients money, reputation and trust.

## Number of Blockchain wallet users worldwide from 1st quarter 2015 to 1st quarter 2018



## BIG HACKS OF MAJOR EXCHANGES

2014

MT. GOX



**\$473 MILLION**

Allegedly stolen by Russian hacker and owner of BTC-e exchange, Alexander Vinnik

2016

BITFINEX



**\$72 MILLION**

Stolen through vulnerabilities in multi-signature wallet

2018

COINCHECK



**\$530 MILLION**

Stolen due to hot wallet storage without multi-signature protection

# Project Background

## Client

- A Hong Kong based fintech company

## Technical Goal

- Find what can do an attacker without initial knowledge of a target (black-box ethical hacking). Detect and fix security issues to save sensitive data and money

## Business Goals

- Evaluate current level of business and platform security, identify gaps in current cyber security program, check IT environment and smart-contract for weaknesses.

## Team

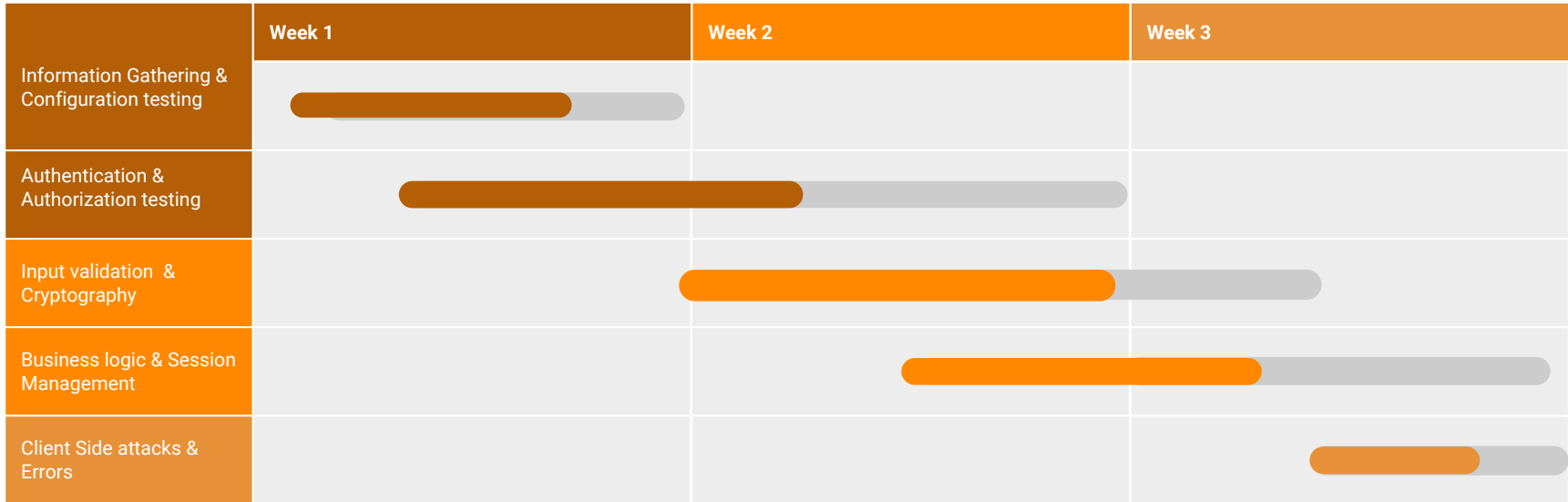
- 2 certified ethical hackers

## Duration

- 3 weeks



# Project planning and goals



# Attack Vectors

## Get access to admin account

Get access to administrative functions and data.

4

## Find privileged users

Get list of administrators of the system or users that might have some privileges.

2

## Get access to money

Get the ability to operate other users' money.

5

## Get access to user account

Get access to user's data and available functions.

3

## Find valid users

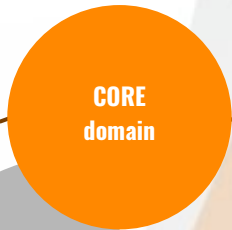
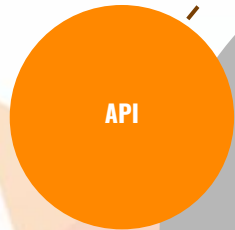
Use different techniques to enumerate valid users of the system.

1



# Inception points

- Access to API functions



- User register
- Access to internal functions
- User enumeration



- Information about real users and possible admins
- Additional info about service



- Deeply explained how to work with API



- Old community open source version on github



# Key moments

## We had

- No knowledge and information about the application and infrastructure
- No usual or privileged accounts
- ONE name of the target

## We have got

- Information about the application architecture
- List of valid users
- List of valid admins
- Access to users and admin account
- Unauthorized access to users data and money

# Technologies and tools used

20%



## Infrastructure analysis

The beginning of each security check usually starts with the examination of the application surround, which is an infrastructure. Tools we had used for this purpose made some automating checks to discover the architecture and relations between applications.

- Nmap
- TestSSL
- Dig
- Nslookup
- Nessus
- Nexpose

70%



## Web Application Analysis

Main focus was on the analysis of the web application as it was a core part of whole infrastructure. Security tools we used for WEB application testing helped us to automate some routine work and accelerate the process of pentesting.

- Burp Suite
- Dirbuster
- Nikto
- Tachyon

10%

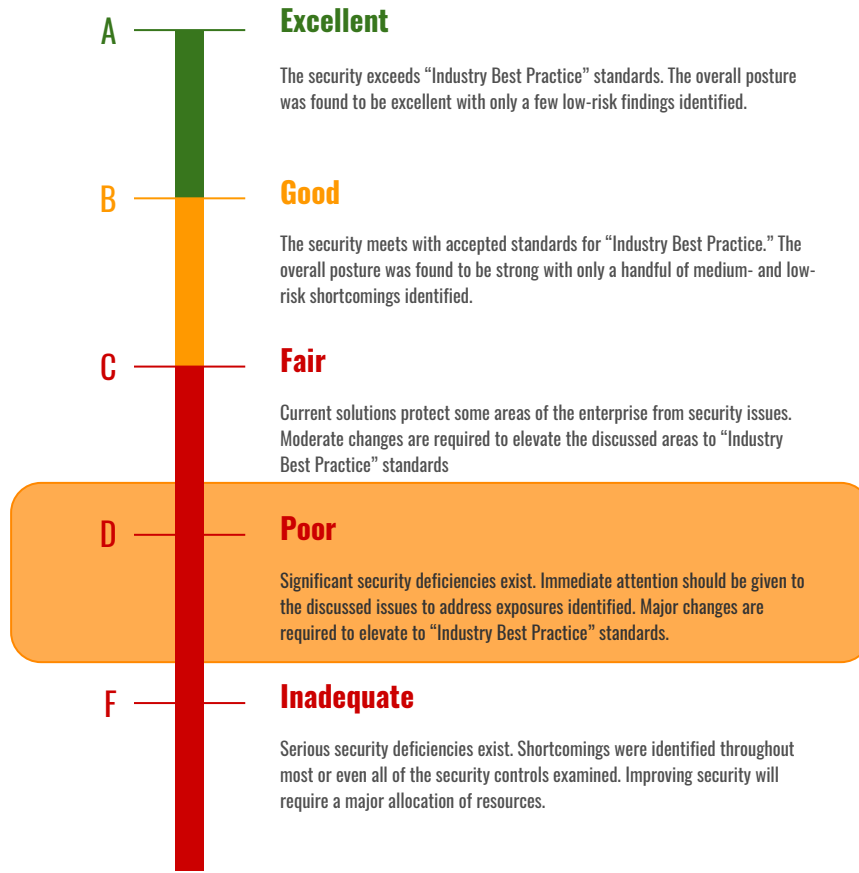


## Mobile Application Analysis

Mobile applications usually duplicates the WEB application functionality, but still contains more weaknesses in design and implementation. Tools we used provide us with the details of static code analysis and makes dynamic analysis easier.

- MobFS
- Inspeckage
- Xposed Framework

# Current Product Security Level Evaluation State:

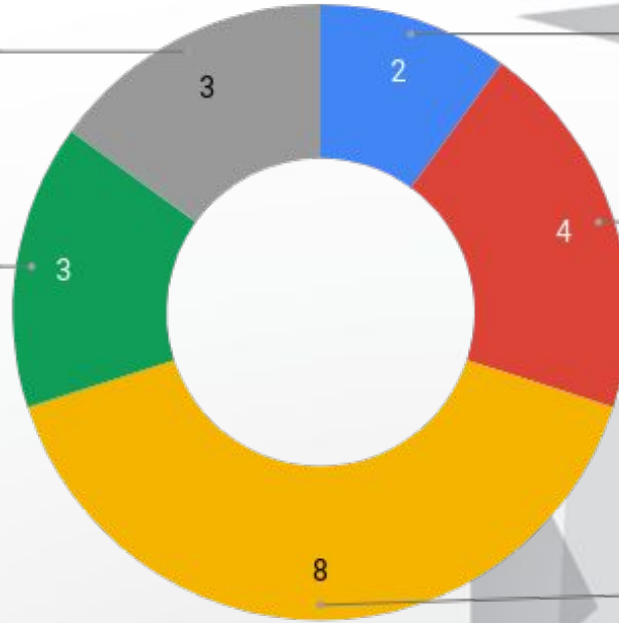


# Security issues

Vulnerabilities by severity

Informational  
15.0%

Low  
15.0%



Critical  
10.0%

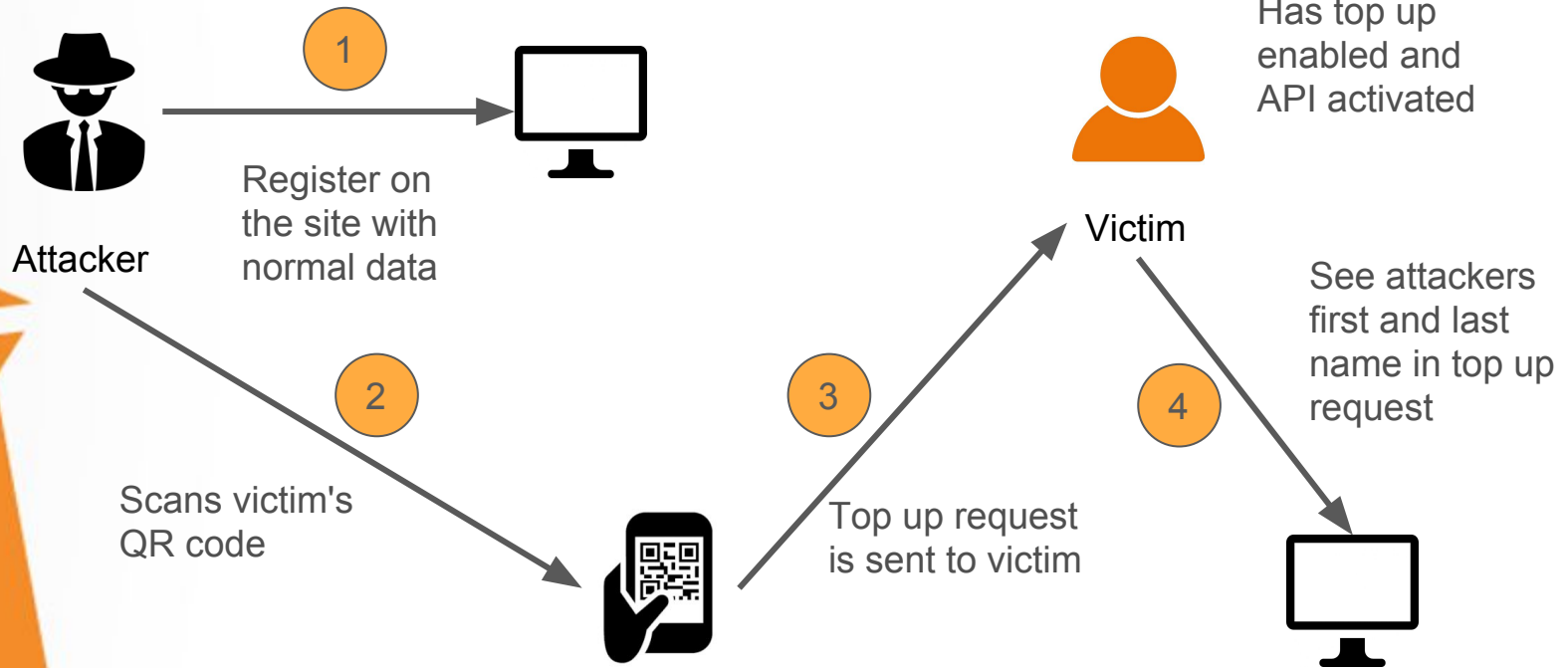
High  
20.0%

Medium  
40.0%

# OWASP Top 10 Security Threats 2017

A1:2017	Injection	Meets Criteria
A2:2017	Broken Authentication	Fails Criteria
A3:2017	Sensitive Data Exposure	Fails Criteria
A4:2017	XML External Entities (XXE)	Meets Criteria
A5:2017	Broken Access Control	Meets Criteria
A6:2017	Security Misconfiguration	Fails Criteria
A7:2017	Cross Site Scripting (XSS)	Fails Criteria
A8:2017	Insecure Deserialization	Meets Criteria
A9:2017	Using Components With Known Vulnerabilities	Fails Criteria
A10:2017	Insufficient Logging & Monitoring	Fails Criteria

# Critical Issues - Stored XSS in Top\_Up



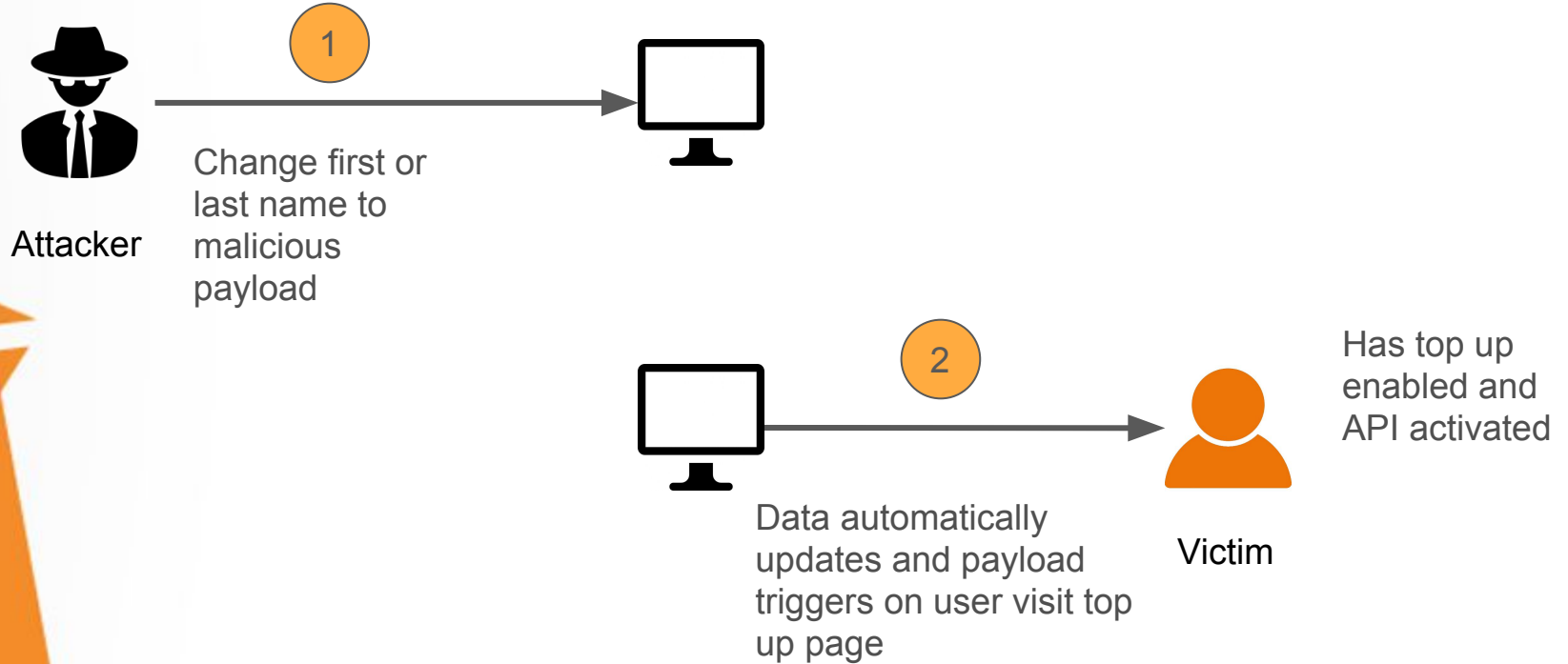
# Critical Issues - Stored XSS in Top\_Up

Victims view of top up page

	Date	Sender First Name	Sender Last Name	Landed Amount	Status	Receipt	Actions
ⓘ	June 8, 2018	beep	aaa	0.0008 BTC	Declined	Unavailable	<a href="#">Accept</a> <a href="#">Decline</a>
ⓘ	June 8, 2018	beep	aaa	0.0001 BTC	Declined	Unavailable	<a href="#">Accept</a> <a href="#">Decline</a>
ⓘ	June 11, 2018	beep	aaa	2.0 USD	Approved	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Accept</a> <a href="#">Decline</a>
ⓘ	June 11, 2018	beep	aaa	2.0 USD	Expired	Unavailable	<a href="#">Accept</a> <a href="#">Decline</a>
ⓘ	June 18, 2018	beep	aaa	5.0 USD	Approved	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Accept</a> <a href="#">Decline</a>

Previous 1 Next

# Critical Issues - Stored XSS in Top\_Up





# High Issues - Redis Server Unprotected by Password Authentication

```
# Server
redis_version:3.2.11
redis_git_sha1:00000000
redis_git_dirty:0
redis_build_id:6f45701c6c1a40a0
redis_mode:standalone
os:Linux 4.4.0-119-generic x86_64
arch_bits:64
multiplexing_api:epoll
gcc_version:4.9.2
process_id:1
run_id:f8c976090e4791b1b9d8501491fab17fe01ac3f3
tcp_port:6379
uptime_in_seconds:602289
uptime_in_days:6
hz:10
lru_clock:2075900
executable:/data/redis-server
config_file:
```

# Business risks detected

Financial loss



Reputational damage



+

Loss of clients trust



Data loss



- Full web application compromise
- Admin account compromise
- User account compromised
- Ability to make transaction
- Ability to eavesdrop communication

# Summary

The test uncovered a critical vulnerabilities that cause:



full web application  
compromise



broken confidentiality



broken integrity



broken availability

Taking into consideration all findings and risks that they bring, we divided our recommendation on two parts:

1. Require immediate actions
2. Strategic recommendations, that intend to minimize security risks in the future.

# Immediate recommendations

Engage users, especially privileged users, to use 2-factor authentication.

Use only encrypted channels for communications

Improve server and application configuration to meet security best practises..

Update codebase to conduct verification and sanitization of user input on both, client and server side

Do not send any unnecessary data in requests and cookies

# Strategic recommendations



Conduct current vs. future IT/Security program review



Conduct Static code analysis for ruby codebase



Establish Secure SDLC best practices



Review Architecture of application



Deploy Web Application Firewall



Continuously monitor logs for anomalies to detect abnormal behaviour and fraud transactions

# Strategic recommendations



Implement Patch Management procedures



Conduct annual Penetration test and quarterly Vulnerability Scanning



Conduct security coding training for Developers



Develop and Conduct Security Awareness training for employees and developers



Develop Incident Response Plan in case if of Data breach or security incidents



Analyse risks for key assets and resources

# Thank you!

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Hong Kong | Taiwan | Singapore | Macau | Mainland China

**Hong Kong & Macau**  
Tel : (852) 2893 8860  
Email : sales@version-2.com.hk

**Taiwan**  
Tel : (886) 02 7722 6899  
Email : sales@version-2.com.tw

**Singapore, Malaysia & SEA**  
Tel : (65) 6296 4268  
Email : sales@version-2.com.sg