Customer Case Study

Dean College

Building an adaptable infrastructure to protect, comply and respond to the unique challenges higher education institutions face daily.

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Towerwall
Protecting Data Integrity

**Helping Students
Succeed for Over 150 Years.**

Dean College is a private, residential New England college grounded in a culture and tradition that all students deserve the opportunity for academic and personal success.

Challenges

Dean College's IT team experienced the challenges of protecting the College's information and technology assets, complying with regulatory requirements, and adhering to security best practices.

This translated into the need to develop a solid foundation and implement policies on secure, responsible, and acceptable use of the College's information and technology assets, addressing potential phishing and ransomware threats, and building repeatable information security programs.

These endeavors presented the additional challenges of balancing time, resources, and budget, while continuing to effectively run daily operations.

Engagement

Towerwall created a roadmap to help define and operationalize Dean's desired security posture. Towerwall's vCISO services were leveraged by the College to further advance defined security initiatives and mature their information security program.

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> Towerwall took into consideration Dean's finite resource challenges and the need to prioritize budget over time to meet the College's implementation plan and timeframe.
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> The rapport and the give and take between the College and the Towerwall team created a great partnership.
>
> – Darrell Kulesza, VP, Information Technology and CIO, Dean College
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In 2015, Towerwall conducted a Risk Assessment/Gap Analysis against the MA 201 CMR 17.00. This served to fulfill a mandatory compliance requirement and helped navigate the direction of their data privacy strategy. The resulting projects served as the foundation of their data security program and included:

- vCISO Onsite Whiteboard Session - Policy Review & Rollout Options
- GLBA Audit Preparation and Policy Implementation Strategy
- Information Security Program Plan
- Incident Response Plan and Run Book
- GDPR White Board Discussion
- Third Party Data Privacy and Protection Policy
- Third-Party Privacy and Data Protection Questionnaire & Implementation Procedures
- Technology Review

Results

Towerwall's objective for the Dean College engagement was to provide tools, knowledge, and capabilities to enable the College's IT team to develop and maintain a successful data security program that keeps pace with Higher Education security best practices.

As a result of the Towerwall/Dean College partnership, the College is better positioned to proactively address cybersecurity threats, safeguard information assets, and comply with regulatory requirements.

> Towerwall's customized approach helped Darrell and his team prioritize their information security initiatives while navigating the higher ed requirements.
>
> – Michelle Drolet, Founder & CEO, Towerwall

To date, Towerwall has helped Dean strengthen many of their policies. How to define threats, when to implement a policy, who implements, who reports, all have been mapped to the overall Dean Security Strategy. Towerwall helped Dean define concrete corrective actions to risk. Dean is now better equipped to face many security challenges.

Dean is cognizant of the fact that security is never static. Threats evolve and change daily. In accordance with the security roadmap developed with Towerwall, Dean continues to fortify its execution of risk identification and mitigation.

Contact us to learn more about our data security and compliance services and to build a custom program for your organzation.

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About Towerwall

At Towerwall we believe that a second set of eyes is crucial to your data security. Many vendors implement a "check list" mentality when tasked with assessing more than one business operation. Whereas, Towerwall uses proven methods for assessing risk, coupled with extensive experience to provide you with an actionable security risk assessment. For nearly 25 years, Towerwall has helped scores of companies safeguard their data and leverage their investment in IT with advanced information security solutions and services. As a market leader within the IT security industry, we offer complete IT security services. By working together we can collectively lower the risk and cost of a data breach. Each passing day we come to see the stakes are getting higher, but more than simply good business practice, today state-of-the-art data security is the law. Our time-tested methodologies provide a consistent, repeatable, and measurable approach to information security.

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