Genetec
Advancing security awareness and adoption with the BSIMM

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Since 1997, Genetec Inc. has delivered innovative technologies across a broad solutions portfolio encompassing security, intelligence, and operations. Its flagship product, Genetec™ Security Center, is a physical security platform that unifies IP-based video surveillance, access control, automatic license plate recognition, communications, and analytics. Genetec also develops cloud-based solutions and services designed to improve physical security and contribute new levels of operational intelligence for governments, enterprises, and the communities in which we live.

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The challenge: Build a software security program rooted in a security-first culture

Tasked with building a software security program nearly from the ground up, Mathieu Chevalier, lead security architect at Genetec, understood one thing to be true: his efforts to bolster and grow his organization's security program would require a trusted and proven strategy. Mathieu noted that the "main drivers [of his methodology] were to use a quantitative approach to establish a plan for what to focus on and to benefit from the experience of others that had already done so."

At the start of his security initiative journey, Mathieu quickly identified Genetec as being "early in [its] software security initiative... with no software security team." Understanding that the promotion of and adherence to a software security program would require more than policies and practices, Mathieu set out to promote an environment and culture in which security was prioritized.

The critical problem Mathieu faced was not only developing the program, but also finding a way to reinforce his strategy with proven methods and approaches.

Genetec began work with the BSIMM in December 2016 and has conducted two assessments in the past five years.

Mathieu's decision to perform a BSIMM assessment on his organization's fledgling security program provided crucial third-party insights. Use of BSIMM data helped with his plan "to find low-hanging fruit, build momentum, and use this to drive changes." Though he had a gut feeling of what needed to be done, Mathieu used the data provided by the BSIMM to assess "where they were, work on improving the situation, and then measure again." After looking at the best way to quantitatively approach this effort, Mathieu found that BSIMM would fill that need.

Use of a trusted third party lent credibility and support to his efforts, provided key guidance, and also validated his decisions and the direction for the program.

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