

Top 6 Application Security Hurdles and the Secret to Overcoming Them



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Are you stuck at the application security starting gate? 1



What do those companies know about the path to proactive application security? Let's find out. Here are six common hurdles you might encounter on the way to better application security and how managed services can solve them.



Hurdle 1: Hiring and retaining security experts is difficult and costly.

If you've attempted to hire security experts lately, you know it's not easy. Consider the following:

Beyond those depressing statistics, your new expert will need to have deep knowledge in multiple domains, with more to learn as your software security program evolves. Here are just the basics:

Depending on your environment, you might need someone with expertise in areas ranging from malware to threat mitigation, cryptography, forensics, advanced analytics, network virtualization, cloud security, and mobile security, as well as industry-specific knowledge.

Plus, your new expert must have the soft skills needed to perform a demanding, time-sensitive, highly cooperative job: communication, management, reporting, and so on.

That's a lot to ask of any person. Given all that, you'll probably have better luck finding a unicorn. And if you do find an expert, it'll cost you.

The shortage of available talent for cyber security positions has caused their salaries to skyrocket. In 2018, information security analyst salaries averaged \$98,350, and the top 25% made nearly \$127,000.⁴ Add the cost of benefits and overhead (about 43% of wages and salary in the private sector⁵), and you're looking at a major investment for a very specific skill set.

You'll also need to invest in training to make sure your new security expert stays up to speed. Roughly half of organizations plan to increase cyber security training for staff in 2020.⁶



But using internal-only application security testing to meet lumpy demand can be difficult and costly. Many organizations find they have too few staff during busy times or too many skilled (and well-paid) employees sitting around during slow times—or both.

Why managed services is your best solution

Managed services can be a lifeline for companies with uneven testing demand. Once again, it provides what you need when you need it—the flexibility to call in the cavalry and then, depending on demand, call it off again.

Hurdle 4: You need to respond to changes on a dime.

Not only are you dealing with a lumpy release schedule, but your business is also evolving quickly. Your security team needs to keep pace.

Are you prepared to respond if any of these things happens?

- New threats come to light that you must investigate and address.
- You enter a new market or industry that has different regulatory requirements.
- The business starts rolling out mobile apps.
- Your organization engages in a merger or acquisition that places new apps under your umbrella.

If demand spikes without your having a full application security team on hand, you'll be scrambling to test and clean up code—or worse, to deploy patches to software that's already in the hands of users.

