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ACSIA
interactive cyberdefense

Ronan o Braonain is CTO of Boards.ie - a discussion forum, and Ireland's largest online community with over 2.4M unique users. Founded in 1998, its has grown to be the biggest site of its kind in Ireland. With over 62 million posts in its database on a huge variety of topics; its members post almost 8,000 times per day.

What was the experience of using ACSIA?

"At the start of the process there was a bit of work and some basic setup - it was a bit noisy as the system polled our users. There was a lot of whitelisting to do as we have quite a few remote workers and various endpoints and IP's.

However it was clear that the system was doing its job - learning the topography of our infrastructure and public facing machines.
After that period was over we just let ACSIA do its thing and clunk away. We have had no serious incidents since we started using the system."

How does it compare to other security products you have used in the past?

"With ACSIA we can predict our security costs - it really is very simple. Other products we used really racked up lots of costs as they are priced around data. We are a highly trafficked site and that pricing model simply did not work for us."

What problem does ACSIA solve?

"As the CTO of Ireland's largest online social forum, with over 2.4 million users I am always concerned about security. Before I joined *Boards.ie* there was a highly publicised incident where a hacker gained access to our systems and stole some of our users data. *(https://www.thejournal.ie/boards-ie-hack-no-jail-2101363-May2015/).*

The breach was only subsequently brought to light when some files left behind by the hacker were discovered on our systems.
I am keen that nothing like that ever happens on my watch!

Before ACSIA security operations at *Boards.ie* involved lots of manual processes - tailing logs, running various clunky linux scripts etc. A lot of these were also run 'after the fact'.

With ACSIA, if someone logs into one of our servers at 3am, I am going to know about it as it happens as opposed to retroactively.
Prior to using ACSIA we had a lot of traffic pinging our servers from the Far East, now with CloudFlare and ACSIA operating we only get the occasional annoyance from random scans."

How has it changed your workflow?

"ACSIA has multi channel alerting options available, including 2FA, but we primarily use Slack - it fits in very nicely with our workflow and that's where we receive our alerts. We think that it really complements our stack which runs on CloudFlare. ACSIA and Cloudflare combined has meant we have seen very few serious incidents and really gives me confidence in our security."

Closing thoughts?

"When we took ACSIA for a trial we knew 4Securitas had a new and innovative product - but I was also sceptical - it had to meet my criteria: does this do a job for us?

I'm happy to say that it definitely does - it lessens our workload and of equal importance it gives me peace of mind and helps me manage my concerns over risk - about what is happening with our critical servers."

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