

MAKING EDUCATION A SAFER, MORE PRODUCTIVE SPACE

An education technology (EdTech) innovator understood they faced a key challenge in securing staff, as well as partner organizations and their students, from email threats, account compromise and phishing attacks. Propelex had already worked with them on other elements of their security environment, they asked if we could extend their capabilities to thwart email-based attacks and better protect sensitive data.

PROTECTION AGAINST ATTACKS, DISRUPTIONS AND DOWNTIME

Attacks targeting companies in the education sector are on the rise, thanks in large part to the widespread shift to remote learning. Email is more necessary than ever for these organizations to support their mission, however they realize it's a double-edged sword: email can also be a vector for highly damaging threats.

Compounding the challenge is the key need to maintain an environment capable of supporting students and organizations around the world, who are operating within highly variable security contexts that open additional risk vectors.

ADVANCE THREATS



SPEAR PHISHING AND IMPOSTER EMAIL



BUSINESS EMAIL COMPROMISE



RANSOMWARE



MALWARE



NAME UNDER NDA

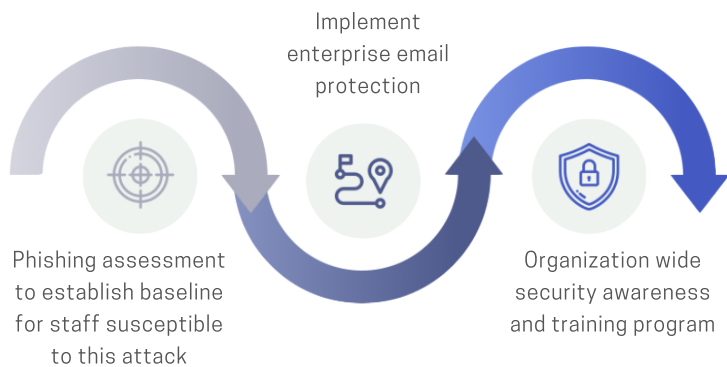
The Client requested that the Propelex team design a solution that would:

1. Assess vulnerability to and provide visibility into email threats
2. Configure Microsoft Office 365 for best security practices
3. Protect against compromise to networks and critical assets
4. Understand and meet evolving compliance standards
5. Securely store emails and files for documentation
6. Manage security awareness training for staff

OUR APPROACH

The Propelex team is experienced working with organizations in the education vertical. Our approach understands how they need to mitigate web and email-based threats, without affecting their core mission:

- Perform email security and phishing assessment
- Determine staff who are susceptible to attack
- Implement customized enterprise email security protections
- Conduct organization-wide security awareness and anti-phishing training program



THE RESULTS

Comprehensive security assessment:

An assessment provided insights into current security capabilities, including holes that required remediation. A plan was created to assemble necessary resources and implement changes to bring email security up to meet program goals, without compromising accessibility or performance for students, education providers, and vendors globally.

Improved security products:

Assessment revealed the Client needed a better suite of security tools to manage their needs. The Propelex team added a range of products designed to defend users' ability to access, create and share via email. Controls were configured according to users, groups, threat intel, and context, to manage the full range of email attacks and data misuse scenarios. Improved security generated benefits of improved email performance, decreased costs, and better risk mitigation.

Microsoft Office 365 security:

A combination of configuration adjustments and new security tools provided complete visibility into phishing, malware, domain spoofing, and ransomware attacks. The Client now enjoys better platform uptime and improved return on their Microsoft Office 365 investment.

Compliance assessment:

Email technologies and processes were assessed against the Client's compliance requirements, including by looking forward to expected changes due to evolving standards. Performance was verified to meet compliance needs for the near term and beyond.

Email archiving:

A secure cloud environment was implemented, to allow bulk email storage. Robust management tools support easy searching and auditing functions, for documentation and compliance needs.

Security awareness training:

Training included educating staff about how to spot potential threats and how to respond. A phishing simulation revealed where additional focus was needed to ensure staff were fully empowered to be an active bulwark against email threats.

MEETING CUSTOMER NEEDS

Education-involved organizations face many challenges in finding the right security solutions: they are prime targets for attack, but need to make the most of limited technical and financial resources. Propelex was able to deploy effective, affordable solutions quickly, to meet program goals and protect the Client against the full range of phishing, business email compromise, and ransomware attacks.