

Scaling Secure Development and Culture Through Gamified Training

OVERVIEW

A leading financial institution offering life insurance, annuities, mutual funds, money management and financial planning services, sought to address persistent application security challenges across its software development lifecycle. With a goal of driving a stronger security culture, reducing vulnerabilities, and increasing product delivery velocity, the company turned to the enterprise training solution from CMD+CTRL, which offered courses, labs, cyber ranges, and skill assessments. Within months, they saw strong engagement, cultural impact, and early indicators of measurable security improvement.

THE CHALLENGE

SECURITY BLIND SPOTS AND DEVELOPMENT DELAYS

Prior to adopting CMD+CTRL, the organization lacked a formal program for role-specific secure coding training. Annual security awareness training focused on security best practices geared toward the broader workforce, but failed to deliver the technical depth and breadth required for development and engineering teams.

The team needed a solution that would drive security awareness and level-up skills across technical roles. They also needed to build a business case to secure executive-level buy-in for training initiatives that stayed within the established budget allocation.



CHALLENGES



DESIRED OUTCOMES

Costly rework and extended remediation cycles

Upskill developers across roles

Delays in product release timelines

Increase SDLC velocity and efficiency

An underdeveloped “shift left” culture

Build a sustainable security-first culture

Increasing number of software vulnerabilities

Reduce recurring vulnerabilities

THE SOLUTION

PHASED DEPLOYMENT TO PROVE VALUE

The solution rollout began with a 100-user pilot. Following enthusiastic learner feedback and enthusiastic engagement at a CMD+CTRL cyber range event, the company scaled the training to an additional 200 learners within three months.

CMD+CTRL delivered a tailored training curriculum mapped to specific job functions, featuring:



Hands-on, gamified cyber ranges for realistic practice



Custom journeys and learning paths based on role



Automated reminders for learners and robust reporting



Integration with the organization's existing tracking tools

These offerings directly supported measurable goals such as reducing vulnerabilities and improving remediation time.

OUTCOMES AND RESULTS

WHY CMD+CTRL WAS SELECTED

CMD+CTRL was selected for its customizable, role-based training journeys that challenged learners with engaging, gamified cyber ranges and tracking capabilities that aligned with key business KPIs. Additionally, the CMD+CTRL program delivered a strong data-driven business case to secure executive approval for an expanded training program.

MEASURABLE SUCCESS CRITERIA

The organization defined three primary success metrics:

- 1 Reduction in top vulnerabilities
- 2 Increased product velocity and decreased remediation times
- 3 Positive developer sentiment and engagement

ENGAGEMENT & EARLY WINS

- ✓ Ongoing tracking of vulnerability trends and remediation metrics
- ✓ 75%+ participation in Cyber Range events
- ✓ High completion rates for training courses
- ✓ The CMD+CTRL cyber range was a standout activity at the internal "Engineering Day"

CONCLUSION

By introducing tailored, experiential training through the CMD+CTRL Base Camp platform, this financial organization laid a foundation for lasting security culture change. The phased rollout strategy helped prove business value early and gain CTO buy-in. With strong initial results and long-term metrics in place, the company is on track to keep developers engaged and significantly improve secure development outcomes.

ABOUT CMD+CTRL SECURITY

CMD+CTRL Security is a pioneer in software security training. For over two decades, organizations of all sizes, from mid-sized to Global 100 companies, have relied on our training solutions to transform their software security. Our role-based modules, skill labs, and hands-on cyber ranges are designed to build skills that stick. Visit cmdntrlsecurity.com to learn how we can help you launch a best-in-class training program.

