SIMSPACE PLATFORM

DON'T JUST PLAN FOR THE FUTURE, EMULATE IT.

Case Study: **Higher Education**

ANONYMOUS CASE STUDY:

Empowering Higher Education with SimSpace's Cyber Range Platform

INDUSTRY: Higher Education

LOCATION: U.S.

Team Size: 1,000+ employees

Background

A prominent higher education university faced the challenge of preparing its students for academic success and workforce readiness in cybersecurity. The institution sought a solution to bridge the gap between theoretical learning and hands-on, practical experience, ensuring students were equipped with the skills necessary to tackle real-world cybersecurity threats. As cybersecurity incidents like ransomware attacks became more common, the institution realized the importance of offering comprehensive training on topics such as encryption and incident response.

The Problem

This university struggled to provide students with a platform where they could gain practical cybersecurity skills. Traditional educational tools were limited and focused heavily on theory, leading the faculty to spend time building and tearing down exercises, which took away from actual teaching. Additionally, there was a need for fully licensed commercial tools like Splunk, Palo Alto Networks, and Fortinet, to give students real-world experience. The lack of a hands-on, scalable solution made it difficult for students to master the necessary skills and for faculty to focus on effective teaching.

The Solution

SimSpace offered a modern cyber range platform that addressed all the institution's challenges. The platform provided extensive, well-designed training content, enabling students to practice real-world scenarios in a controlled environment. SimSpace's flexible platform supported both individual and team-based exercises, allowing students to learn at their own pace and meet them at their specific level of expertise—from foundational to expert.

SimSpace's flexible pedagogical model supported educators by providing the tools and resources they needed to identify and deliver unique ways for students to learn, communicate, and solve meaningful cybersecurity problems. With this model, faculty were empowered to design custom learning paths tailored to diverse learning styles, allowing each student to develop critical thinking and hands-on problem-solving skills in cybersecurity.

SimSpace also aligned its learning paths with the NIST/NICE 3.0 Framework, ensuring students developed the Task, Knowledge and Sills (TKS) required by the cybersecurity industry. Real-time reporting and grading allowed faculty and students to track progress, highlighting top performers and areas needing improvement. The platform's integrated support for widely-used commercial tools like Splunk for log analysis, Palo Alto Networks for firewall and intrusion prevention, and Wireshark for network packet inspection also allowed students to gain familiarity with essential tools, better preparing them for the demands of cybersecurity careers.

Why SimSpace?

SimSpace emerged as the ideal solution because it provided hands-on training and offered faculty the flexibility to design and deliver courses without the administrative burden of building and maintaining exercises. The platform's real-time reporting and grading systems allowed the faculty to assess team and individual performance efficiently.

Moreover, SimSpace's focus on aligning with the NIST/NICE 3.0 Framework ensured that students were prepared for the workforce, not just to earn a degree. This integration enabled the university to meet both short-term educational objectives and long-term goals, such as increasing enrollment in its cybersecurity programs.

The institution's ROI was clear: faculty could focus more on teaching, students gained valuable, real-world experience, and the overall cybersecurity program became more attractive to prospective students.

Conclusion

SimSpace's cyber range platform revolutionized the university's approach to cybersecurity education. By offering a flexible, hands-on learning environment with real-time grading and reporting, the platform empowered students to be workforce-ready and enhanced faculty productivity. As a result, the institution saw immediate improvements in student outcomes, making SimSpace a vital tool for teaching and learning in the rapidly evolving field of cybersecurity.

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