

# Insight Space

cyber insights  
programme

nccgroup

## Case Study

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Delivering essential  
assurance,  
monitoring and  
detection services  
for a university

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# A leading university enlisted NCC Group to validate its cyber security posture.

After NCC Group identified multiple improvements that needed to be made to bring the organisation's security to the required standard, it was enlisted to design a comprehensive security package that included a Managed Detection and Response (MDR) solution.

The university was supporting essential research into COVID-19 and required assurance that its solution was fully secure, so the engagement was time-critical.

## AT A GLANCE

**Organisation**  
University

**Industry/Sector**  
Higher education

**Challenge**  
Providing assurance, monitoring and detection services for a university with 30,000 students

**Solution**  
NCC Group consultants designed a multi-layered solution, including MDR, Security Information Event Management (SIEM) and 24/7 Security Operations Centre (SOC) monitoring

**Results**  
The organisation's security has improved, and its research endeavours are much better protected by NCC Group's monitoring and detection services



## CHALLENGE

With around 30,000 students across six faculties, the challenge was considerable. From previous experience in the higher education sector, NCC Group has learnt that securing universities from cyber threats can be more complicated than in other sectors. Student bodies' liberal expectations of information sharing need to be balanced with the requirement to protect the university's extremely valuable intellectual property. A nuanced and segmented approach to risk is required.

As is often the case with large organisations that have a user base with high turnovers, one of the most fundamental security requirements was an accurate understanding of the enterprise deployment in a way that could be digested by security teams. Once baselined, the next priority was to implement a solution that could identify malicious activity at the earliest possible stage and accurately report incidents so that effective remediation could be conducted. A solution that worked equally well for on-prem and cloud architectures was also required, as the customer operates an enterprise that draws on both designs.

## SOLUTION

NCC Group consultants designed a multi-layered solution, including an MDR suite incorporating SIEM, endpoint detection and network detection with a unifying service wrap centred on a SOC facility. Under NCC Group project management, the full service was deployed progressively.

The specific requirement to deploy a full network discovery and access control solution had not been delivered in the managed service model previously. However, NCC Group developed the service at pace, implementing a working solution in tandem with the other elements of MDR.

## COVID-19 CHALLENGE

A further challenge was presented at short notice during the deployment. The customer was involved in research supporting a World Health Organisation (WHO) trial and needed to establish dedicated infrastructure to contribute to the global megatrial of the four most promising coronavirus treatments. They urgently required assurance that their solution was secure and fit for purpose. The request was time critical, and NCC Group worked around the clock to ensure that the infrastructure was penetration tested, remediated and added to its 24/7 monitoring within three days.

## RESULTS

Following NCC Group's engagement, the customer has a comprehensive managed service in place that informs its in-house security team quickly, and only when they need to be informed, allowing them to focus exclusively on what matters.

The result is an organisation that is more informed and more secure, enabling the university to continue to conduct its research with greater peace of mind that it is equipped to handle any potential security incidents.

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## About NCC Group

NCC Group exists to make the world safer and more secure.

As global experts in cyber security and risk mitigation, NCC Group is trusted by over 14,000 customers worldwide to protect their most critical assets from the ever-changing threat landscape.

With the company's knowledge, experience and global footprint, it is best placed to help businesses assess, develop and manage the evolving cyber risks they face.

To support its mission, NCC Group continually invests in research and innovation, and is passionate about developing the next generation of cyber scientists.

With circa 2,000 colleagues in 12 countries, NCC Group has a significant market presence in North America, Europe and the UK, and a rapidly growing footprint in Asia Pacific with offices in Australia, Japan and Singapore.

To discuss how you can reduce your ransomware risk, speak to our team today.

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