

# Creating a Security Culture with Leadership Trust and Buy-in

Highly regulated organizations need an independent, thorough assessment of their security program to verify and determine how well they are protected, where the gaps are, and where they need to prioritize their investments. Realizing they were at the point of transformative growth, this well-known FinTech company hired an experienced CISO who leveraged Blue Lava and formalize their security program.

#### RESULTS

Assess •Self-assessments •Manual spreadsheets •Reactive, no program in place		<ul> <li>Plan &amp; Prioritize</li> <li>SOC 2 Type 2 Certified</li> <li>Maturity rating: 2.4</li> </ul>	
DAY 1		1.5 Years	
	<ul> <li><b>1 Month</b></li> <li>Measure</li> <li>Built-in best practices, industry frameworks</li> <li>Blue Lava assessment &amp; findings</li> <li>Benchmark maturity rating: 1.4</li> </ul>		2.5 Years Communicate •Financial audit cleared •Preparations to go public •Strong stakeholder support •Recognition of the team's efforts, im •Maturity rating: 3

# **Customer Profile**

- An experienced CISO with deep technical experience was brought on to lead the security team of a well-known and fast-growing FinTech company
- With a newly formed information security department, the CISO leveraged Blue Lava to build a foundation and begin their digital transformation journey

# Challenge

The CISO needed to not only get the company SOC 2 Type 2 certified, but ready to go public. To build a strong foundation, the CISO needed to assess the current state of the organization's cybersecurity maturity. Once this baseline was established, they would be able to understand where their major gaps were and prioritize initiatives. With a foundation of process controls in place, the CISO would then be able to build a program that demonstrated continuous and sustainable improvements over time.



Blue Lava has made a huge impact in accelerating progress, by giving me the ability to graphically communicate the importance and the effectiveness of the cybersecurity program."

FinTech CISO

### Solution

The CISO took a three-step approach to forming their security program. By leveraging the Blue Lava Security Program Management (SPM) platform, they began with assessing the current state and determining the gaps from these findings. Second, they leveraged the insights from the assessments to help make better decisions around which projects were most important and which investments to prioritize over others. Third, by using the outputs to communicate more effectively, the CISO was able to bring these recommendations to senior management.

Armed with a systematic way to collect findings, the CISO was able to bring various workstreams and combine these findings into the Blue Lava platform. To avoid having peaks and valleys in the program, the CISO took a pragmatic crawl, walk, run approach. A goal was established to bring the maturity level up to a 3 across all security disciplines. This provided them with a holistic view into where they were in their security maturity, and what areas needed attention before building an actionable plan.

#### **A New Cybersecurity Program**

Once the program was underway, the CISO leveraged the Blue Lava platform to communicate the continuous improvements and progress of the cybersecurity program.

In just over a year, the assessment findings helped bring them to SOC 2 Type 2 compliance. After year two with the Blue Lava solution, a company audit was not able to find any significant technical gaps or findings in their control framework to support the financial audit. They were able to leverage this information to help prepare the company to go public.

After every milestone they deliver a read-out to Senior Executives and all the stakeholders to share where they started, where they are and what they need to do moving forward. As a result, the security leader was able to get strong stakeholder support and well-deserved recognition of the team's efforts and impact to the organization.



Peer-to-peer comparison of Risk Programs

In just over two years, the CISO was able to build a program from the ground up – leading the security team from foundational assessments to compliance to preparations for going public.

The CISO found that not only could they build a program from the findings over time, they were also able to leverage the outputs to help validate their results, tell their story, and share their progress to their non-technical stakeholders. With Blue Lava, the CISO was able to build a culture of security throughout the organization and evolve their program quickly.

# BLUELAVA

Blue Lava empowers you to effectively communicate priorities, needs, recommendations and results to your larger community of business and finance stakeholders, pivoting from reactive to proactive decision making. Communicate security program results and needs to business stakeholders with consistency and ease.

Learn More