

Waking up to a secure, modern and performant platform.

As a market leader in the automotive industry, our customer cannot afford to lose pace with their major competitors. They are an organization who benefit from a modern cutting-edge collaboration platform to keep data and communication secure and fluid. Their platform of choice is Microsoft SharePoint as it offers extensive customization capabilities to meet their exact business needs.

To not prevent business growth but stay in control of their SharePoint, our customer commissioned a Rencore Assessment to discover and understand the extent of their SharePoint growth. Consequently, they have been able to maximize customization capabilities and deliver a secure, performant, and controlled SharePoint customized by both IT and end-users.

The challenges faced

SharePoint with its vast customization capabilities needs to be treated with due care and attention if it is to be utilized in the way it was intended. Because of our prior relationship with our customer, they understood SharePoint customizations and applications needed to meet a quality standard to operate effectively. But their IT department also needed a way to understand how their SharePoint environment was constructed in its entirety to ensure optimal business productivity in the most secure way.

Company history

Our customer is a multinational automotive corporation, headquartered in Germany. Employing over 300,000 people, the customer holds a number of car, bus and truck brands and ranks among the top 20 automotive manufacturers in the world. In addition, the corporation also provides services ranging from financing to fleet management. Our customer is a member of the Fortune 500 and typically discloses revenues north of \$150,000.00.

Therefore, our customer decided to entrust Rencore with assessing their SharePoint environment. The first stage was a scoping meeting, which collected all requirements and expectations and forged it into a highly individual assessment approach.

One important insight from the scoping meeting was that SharePoint user adoption was very high throughout the organization. However, the customer were acutely aware their rapidly increasing SharePoint growth needed to be handled in a controlled way. Thus, the following topics were identified as the primary assessment focus:

- Identify customizations made by end-users.
- Measure the degree of platform customization.
- Detect potential risks (vulnerabilities and migration readiness).
- Carry out a quality check of existing customizations (code check).

Solution

During an initial assessment of their EMEA SharePoint Farm, Rencore ran a tool-based scan of the environment to discover farm solutions, forms, workflows and scripts to name a few. Contents like documents or permissions of the end users were not selected as part of the assessment.

About Rencore

Rencore is a software company providing award-winning solutions essential to the SharePoint and Office 365 space. They empower organizations to stay in control of the growth of their Microsoft collaboration technology by providing insights and advice on how to act on them. Integrating the Rencore Platform, organizations can run an extended, secure, governed and modern SharePoint environment which meets business needs.

The collected data of the initial scan brought to light all individual customizations created by IT and end users - meaning any functional change that deviated from the standard SharePoint environment. The assessment documented all customizations and subjected them to an automated code check for vulnerabilities, quality issues and migration readiness.

Findings

Rencore experts analyzed the findings and identified sites hosting confidential content running more than 250 scripts from external servers. They also discovered content sites with external partner access hosting 2800 scripts loaded from external servers.

Furthermore, the assessment also found a prominent use of open-source libraries (mainly jQuery and Angular) across the farm. Multiple versions were found for most of these libraries. Especially with outdated libraries, this adds a vulnerability aspect to the already hard task of keeping up with a large number of external resources.

Apart from the pure security aspects, all customizations were also subjected to an automated code quality analysis. The assessment found that Microsoft security policies have been violated in multiple instances, which could result in the loss or limitation of Microsoft support. Regarding performance and stability, the code quality analysis identified parts of

code which did not comply with Microsoft best practices. This led to performance problems in the entire environment.

Approximately 4.600 InfoPath forms were found, a technology classified by Microsoft as deprecated with support ending 2022. Furthermore, approximately 7.000 workflows had been identified, either SharePoint Designer workflows or Nintex workflows. Especially for the migration to Office 365, these workflows need to be reviewed and their modernization to alternative technologies should be evaluated.

In closing

The findings were presented to our customer by Rencore experts along with an action plan to stay in control of their SharePoint environment. The assessment allowed our customer to stick to their governance approach by adding a level of control, still allowing both IT and end-users to constantly adapt the environment to their needs.

The assessment suggested that, in order to remain in control, the SharePoint environment needs to be reviewed regularly to identify new customizations and detect and fix new vulnerabilities at an early stage. The code quality of customizations should also be checked regularly by IT to avoid negative effects on stability, performance, and ongoing operating costs. As it stands, the security vulnerabilities from open source libraries pose the highest risk to the EMEA SharePoint farm.

Do you want to
stay in control of
your **SharePoint**
and **Office 365?**

Rencore offers automated solutions to discover, understand and act on vulnerabilities and modernization blockers.

Reach out! Visit www.rencore.com today or drop us a line on sales@rencore.com to see how we can help you.