



### **About Somerfield**

Somerfield operates more than 1,000 stores, including 140 gas stations dispensing gas and has over 46,000 employees in the UK.

### **The Challenge**

A lack of visibility over the potential business risk associated with Somerfield's Wireless Infrastructure.

### **The Solution**

Pentura's Wireless Risk Assessment

***“From the first conversation to the delivered report, Pentura focussed on our requirements as a business, not just the technology. This results in a service aligned for our business and the things that really matter.”***

Many organisations are wary of wireless technology but it is here to stay and offers immediate benefits to mobile workers and offices. Somerfield is one organisation where wireless technology is a key part of their infrastructure in many of their stores as they have a significant number of mobile workers in the form of those involved in stock taking and inventory.

Somerfield head of corporate business control, Colin Clark was concerned that “he didn't know what he didn't know” about the risks associated with Somerfield's Wireless Infrastructure.

To address this, **Pentura** were brought in to conduct a Wireless Risk Assessment. The assessment was conducted across a number of Somerfield sites including the Head Office in Bristol, the Bridgewater Distribution Centre and the Somerfield store in Kingswood.

The objective of the Wireless Risk Assessment was to identify if the Somerfield infrastructure could be penetrated via wireless technology and to assess how likely any issues found could be replicated across the group. The tests simulated the type of activity that a hacker would undertake using a number of tools to attempt to gain access to the network over a given period of time. The process required no interaction from the client, only access to the site.

Following the assessment, **Pentura** provided a report to Somerfield detailing potential wireless vulnerabilities related to actual risk to the business rather than just technology failures. Through the audit Clark has been able to share information and break down the barriers between security, IT and board-level managers.

The report also gave recommendations using their current architecture for mitigation via improved processes and/or technology and Somerfield are in the process of drafting a set of security policies based on the findings of the audit. These policies will be used to make sure not only Somerfield's own systems are secure but also to ensure contractors are making their wireless devices secure.

As a result of **Pentura's Wireless Risk Assessment**, Somerfield's security policies have relaxed somewhat and given IT the advantage of allowing them to experiment more with wireless technology as the organisation now has visibility of the potential risk. An example of this is Somerfield opening up three wireless hotspots for third-party contractors to use Somerfield's network at the HQ. The risk of them straying into sensitive corporate data has been assessed and has been deemed under control by Clark.

Clark says “Now I know what the risks are and I know I'm in a good place. I'm not afraid of wireless anymore, I'm aware of it. I don't understand the technology but I can call on the expertise of someone who does.”

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