



case study

# America First Increases Security Posture through Authenticated Scanning with Secret Server



## BACKGROUND

America First was founded in 1939, and has become one of the largest, strongest, and most progressive credit unions in the country. With over 600,000 members, they have 104 full-service branches located across Utah and Nevada.



**Using the Secret Server / Qualys integration lets us perform authenticated scanning while keeping passwords secure on-premise.**

John Bullough  
Network Security Admin  
America First Credit Union

## CHALLENGES

As a financial institution, a strong security posture is important to America First, both to protect their members and to meet compliance mandates. As part of their security plan, the IT team at America First performs regular vulnerability scanning with QualysGuard. However, with between 1,000 to 2,000 systems at their main campus alone, America First needed to add authenticated scanning to have a complete understanding of their network risks.

At about the same time that America First was looking for an authenticated scanning solution, they also received new requirements to change Active Directory service account and Domain Admin passwords more frequently. To meet both challenges, they needed a password vault with active password changing capabilities.

## SOLUTION

America First decided to select an enterprise password management solution to automatically change their Active Directory and service account passwords and also integrate with QualysGuard for secure, authenticated scanning. Secret Server met both security challenges. John Bullough, Network Security Admin for America First, led the implementation of Secret Server and integration with QualysGuard. According to Mr. Bullough, he preferred Secret Server to other password management tools due to the ease of integration with QualysGuard. "The integration is done; the vault is set up with Qualys referencing passwords in Secret Server... the hardest part [of the integration] was getting passwords from admins," said Mr. Bullough.

## BUSINESS IMPACT

Before using the Secret Server and QualysGuard integration, America First performed limited authenticated testing manually, but from a security standpoint they did not want manual testing to be the norm. Additionally, they wanted an on-premises solution for authenticated scanning to keep network credentials out of the cloud.

With the implementation of Secret Server, Mr. Bullough states that IT admins at America First are now much more willing to share network access with the QualysGuard tool. With full network access, QualysGuard is now providing a more realistic understanding of the network's security. For example, with unauthenticated scanning on a PC test system QualysGuard found no network vulnerabilities. After adding authenticated scanning with Secret Server, QualysGuard returned 33 vulnerabilities on that system that Mr. Bullough's team can now actively fix.

With Thycotic's Secret Server, QualysGuard users benefit from an additional layer of protection and tighter control over their critical passwords. Authenticated scans using privileged IDs will be stored in the Secret Server password repository and never leave the user's network. Users can also leverage Secret Server's ability to log credential usage, restrict access and periodically rotate credentials to ensure compliance with corporate policies and regulatory requirements.

## WRAP-UP

### **Secret Server**

Secret Server is used by IT departments worldwide to secure privileged passwords and other sensitive data. Secret Server is the flagship product of Thycotic Software, a global provider of IT security solutions.

### **QUALYS GUARD**

QualysGuard delivers critical security intelligence on demand of auditing, compliance and protection for IT systems.

#### **SECRET SERVER BUSINESS CASE**

- ✓ Easy deployment.
- ✓ Low cost and time commitment to support.
- ✓ Centralized control for privileged account passwords
- ✓ Full auditing and reports.
- ✓ Automatic password changing for several platforms such as Windows local accounts, Active Directory service accounts and Unix root accounts

#### **QUALYS GUARD BUSINESS CASE**

- ✓ Web based access right from your browser for quick scanning capabilities.
- ✓ Monitors servers and web apps to ensure proper configuration against attacks.
- ✓ Discover rogue devices and web apps with continuous monitoring of the network.
- ✓ Produces clear view on security posture through robust reporting on machines and applications.