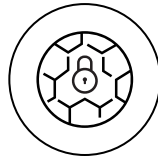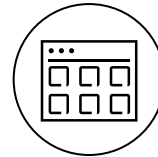Consistent experiences for all students

Secure and flexible learning with isolated environments

Learning labs are quick and easy to set up, access and update

Virtual support is as effective as face-to-face help

How SCYTHE Is Delivering Seamless Hands-On Cybersecurity Training

A leader in cyber adversary emulation technology, SCYTHE's mission is to empower organizations to routinely test and hone their ability to fend off cyber threats. As part of its purpose, SCYTHE was determined to educate the market about Purple Team programs through free, interactive, virtual cybersecurity training workshops. To ensure the company could deliver its Hands-On Purple Team Workshops securely, at scale, and without a hitch, it turned to VMware Lab Platform.

The power of Purple Teams

SCYTHE'S Chief Technology Officer, Jorge Orchilles, says overcoming today's security challenges requires an organization to proactively bolster its cyber defenses before an attacker strikes. To achieve this, Red Teams (who perform the role of the attacker) and Blue Teams (who perform the role of the defender) work together as a Purple Team, testing the strength of security capabilities and uncovering vulnerabilities.

"We want to show that Purple Teaming is the more efficient way of getting secure," Orchilles explains. It's also more cost-effective to continuously optimize your security posture. Yet, many organizations still do the bare minimum, which can be a costly mistake. "Many organizations are paying millions of dollars for a breach, when you can invest a fraction of that on a Purple Team program and continuously improve your security before something happens," Orchilles says.

SCYTHE offers an adversary emulation platform for the enterprise and cybersecurity consulting markets. By enabling Red, Blue and Purple teams to build and emulate real-world adversarial campaigns in a matter of minutes, SCYTHE empowers organizations to proactively assess their security posture and threat exposure on a continuous basis.

JORGE ORCHILLES
Chief Technology Officer, Scythe

INDUSTRY
Cybersecurity

HEADQUARTERS
Arlington, Virginia, U.S.

VMWARE FOOTPRINT
VMware Lab Platform

vmware®

"We tried giving out virtual machines to people, but it was a hassle because they have to run it on their own system and they have to download software ahead of time. With VMware Lab Platform, they log in through their browser, and the learning environment is available to them instantly – no setup is required. It makes a lot of sense."

JORGE ORCHILLES
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER
SCYTHE

Did you know?

40-60%
less employee time
is needed to learn the same material virtually as you would in a traditional environment[1]

80-90%
typical retention rate
from hands-on learning, compared to 5% from traditional learning[2]

1. "HCM Outlook Survey." Brandon Hall Group, 2017.
2. "A Visual Guide to Experiential Learning for Organizational Development." Eagle's Flight, 2016.

A consistent experience for countless learners

One of the biggest benefits of VMware Lab Platform for SCYTHE is the ability to provide hundreds of learners with their own identical training environment at the same time.

"This is great because in a hacking class, people generally break stuff and we don't want students messing up each other's learning environments," Orchilles says.

The training environments can also be reset quickly. So, if a student makes a mistake during a scenario, it's easy to revert their learning environment to the starting point.

"They're going back to a known good state, where if they follow the instructions, they should be able to complete the learning scenario successfully," Orchilles notes.

Easy customization to keep up with threats

VMware Lab Platform can be configured to your needs. For SCYTHE, this means being able to update the scenarios it emulates in its training environment based on new and emerging real-world threats. Orchilles gives the example of a workshop scenario where a low-sophistication threat actor, called 'Orange Worm', was going after healthcare organizations.

"The FBI recently warned a number of hospitals about a threat actor deploying ransomware, called Ryuk," the SCYTHE CTO adds. "In our environment, all we had to change was the manual to emulate a more sophisticated threat actor."

In addition, training manuals can be updated on-the-fly, even in the middle of a live workshop, and the changes will immediately flow through to everyone's learning environment.

The same quality of support, virtually

Using VMWare Lab Platform, SCYTHE can provide learners the personal touch in a virtual setting. This means students get the same quality of support remotely as they would in person.

"Previously, when people asked for help, I would just walk up to them and look at their machine. Now, I can actually see their console within VMware Lab Platform, and even take over it," Orchilles explains.

"We can help people out much quicker if they're stuck on something or confused about where to click."

Learning experiences that leave an impression

Thanks to the quality of SCYTHE's learning content and the support of VMware Lab Platform, the Hands-On Purple Team Workshops have been a great success, resulting in happy, informed learners. As such, the company plans to expand the types of classes it teaches.

"Once you emulate an adversary in your environment, you have to do a lot of defense support. That's why we want to create a workshop on what's called 'detection engineering', which means developing methods to detect and respond to adversary behavior in your environment," Orchilles says.

"Everyone has their own isolated environment set up exactly alike. This is great because in a hacking class, people generally break stuff and we don't want students messing up each other's learning environments."

JORGE ORCHILLES
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER
SCYTHE

Discover how **VMware Lab Platform** can help you deliver hands-on training in isolated IT labs to anyone on the planet, at cloud scale.

Looking for more info? Talk to a VMware Lab Platform expert today.

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