



Navigating the Digital Operations Resilience Act (DORA)

Grant Thornton's Approach to Threat Led Penetration Testing (TLPT)

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Introduction

The Digital Operations Resilience Act (DORA) represents a significant step in strengthening the digital resilience of the financial sector within the European Union. This regulatory framework aims to ensure that all entities in the financial system have the necessary safeguards to mitigate cyber threats and operational disruptions. DORA establishes stringent requirements for digital risk management, mandating rigorous testing and assessment protocols to identify vulnerabilities in digital infrastructures.

The Importance of Threat Led Penetration Testing (TLPT) under DORA

At the core of DORA's requirements is the implementation of Threat Led Penetration Testing (TLPT). TLPT differs from traditional penetration testing by being intelligence-driven and focusing on simulating realistic cyber-attack scenarios. This approach is crucial for financial institutions to not only comply with DORA but also to proactively identify and address potential security breaches in their digital operations.

Threat led penetration testing, or TLPT, is a specialized form of red team assessment influenced by threat intelligence. In the local market, red teaming capabilities have been present for many years, yet it's noted that only a select few companies engage in this sophisticated security testing. On another note, the generation of tailored threat intelligence is a relatively newer element in the cybersecurity domain, especially within Cyprus's Cybersecurity industry. The distinct advantage of TLPT lies in its ability to offer more realistic and beneficial security testing, surpassing the limitations of traditional penetration tests and vulnerability assessments.

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Grant Thornton is equipped to deliver TLPT services by integrating both local and international expertise. This method allows for the synergy of the skills and local insights of Cyprus-based testers with the vast experience of testers and analysts who have conducted complex TLPT projects in major financial institutions, adhering to standards like TIBER-EU and CBEST.

Grant Thornton's Methodology and Approach to TLPT

Grant Thornton's methodology for TLPT is designed to align with DORA's objectives. Our approach involves:



Intelligence-Driven Assessment

We commence by gathering and analyzing threat intelligence specific to the client's industry and operational landscape. This data guides our testing strategy, ensuring it mirrors real-world attack vectors.

Customized Testing Scenarios

Based on the intelligence gathered, we develop tailored testing scenarios that replicate potential threats. These scenarios are designed to test the resilience of the client's digital infrastructure comprehensively.



Comprehensive Reporting

Post-testing, we provide detailed reports highlighting vulnerabilities and weaknesses, the impact of potential breaches, and an assessment of the current resilience levels.

Expert Team Execution

Our team of experts, with extensive experience in conducting Penetration Testing in various financial institutions, executes the testing. They bring a wealth of knowledge in both local and international cybersecurity practices.



Supporting your businesses under DORA

Grant Thornton's services are pivotal for businesses needing to comply with DORA. Our support extends beyond testing to include:



Compliance Guidance: We assist businesses in understanding the intricacies of DORA, guiding them through the compliance process. Our team offers insights into the specific requirements of TLPT under DORA, ensuring that businesses are not just compliant but also well-prepared against cyber threats.



Identification of Threats and Weaknesses: Our TLPT methodology is designed to uncover hidden vulnerabilities and potential attack vectors within the business's digital infrastructure. This proactive approach is vital for identifying and mitigating risks before they can be exploited.



Customized Risk Mitigation Strategies: Following the identification of vulnerabilities, we provide tailored recommendations for strengthening digital resilience. This includes strategic advice on implementing robust cybersecurity measures, improving operational practices, and enhancing overall security posture.



Ongoing Support and Advisory: Compliance with DORA is not a one-time effort but an ongoing process. Grant Thornton offers continuous support and advisory services to help businesses adapt to evolving cyber threats and regulatory changes. Our team stays abreast of the latest developments in cybersecurity and regulatory landscapes, ensuring that our clients remain at the forefront of digital resilience.

The Grant Thornton Advantage

With the implementation of DORA, financial institutions face the dual challenge of complying with regulatory requirements and fortifying their digital operations against sophisticated cyber threats. Grant Thornton's expertise in Threat Led Penetration Testing positions us uniquely to assist businesses in navigating these challenges. Our comprehensive approach to TLPT, combined with our deep understanding of DORA, enables us to offer unparalleled support to businesses in strengthening their digital resilience and ensuring compliance with regulatory standards. By partnering with Grant Thornton, businesses can confidently face the digital future, secure in the knowledge that their infrastructure is resilient, compliant, and prepared to withstand the evolving landscape of cyber threats.

Our team



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