

RADICL™



CASE
STUDY

Innovation Protected, Compliance Secured.

Why Vatn Chose RADICL's Xtended
Threat Protection (XTP) to Increase its
Cybersecurity Posture

ABOUT VATN SYSTEMS

Headquartered in Portsmouth, RI, *Vatn Systems* designs, develops, and manufactures the next generation of autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs). Vatn AUVs act in cooperative swarms to collaboratively accomplish missions and can be deployed by hand, air, or surface vessel.

Vatn's AUVs are powered by advanced navigation software that is effective in GPS, vision, and communications-compromised environments while reducing hardware costs and taking humans fully out of the surveillance loop. Vatn is also designing new sensor and data fusion techniques that will reduce navigational error.

Vatn was recently highlighted by Booz Allen Hamilton as one of the *Top 10 Emerging Technologies for the DOD and National Security*.



Vatn Systems serves the Defense Industrial Base (DIB) with autonomous underwater vehicles and knew it was time to improve its cybersecurity posture before it became a target for potential nation-state attacks. RADICL helped Vatn navigate its journey toward security and compliance and helped save time and cost while delivering confident peace of mind along the way.

Vatn's Cybersecurity Challenge

Lack of deep cybersecurity and compliance expertise:

A participant in the Defense Industrial base (DIB), Vatn does not have anyone on its team that has deep, cybersecurity experience or NIST SP 800-171 / CMMC compliance expertise.

Lack of time:

As a busy start-up, Vatn lacks the time needed to devote to cybersecurity and compliance requirements.

Anticipated concerns of risk:

Leadership is concerned that because of the innovations they develop for defense applications, they are an attractive target for nation-state cyberespionage.



"Obviously there's the fact that we don't want to get hacked," Mills said, "but our ability to do business with the US government requires increased levels of cybersecurity protection and compliance. That really accelerated our efforts to find a trusted partner."



Nelson Mills
CEO and Founder
Vatn



THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION

Vatn's criteria for a cybersecurity partner required a solution:

- To guide, accelerate, and maintain NIST SP 800-171 and CMMC compliance in the face of changing business dynamics.
- That would be low effort, and provide most of what they needed without taxing existing staff.
- That would ideally delay hiring additional security by reducing the cybersecurity resource workloads going forward.

THE RADICL DIFFERENCE	BEFORE RADICL	AFTER RADICL
50% Basic Endpoint Protection vs. 100% Best-Of-Breed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had consumer grade Microsoft Defender on 50% of their endpoints. Remaining 50% had no endpoint protection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CrowdStrike Falcon (CSF) for Endpoint Protection and Detection across 100% of Windows and Mac Endpoints.
APT Threat Hunting vs. Ambiguity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No analysis of activity that might uncover an intrusion into the IT environment by an advanced threat actor (i.e., APT). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly, expert-executed threat hunts searching for deeply embedded threats. • Bespoke detection analytics constantly running and looking for known threat indicators.
24 X 7 Expert Security Operations vs. Best Effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No internal or outsourced security operations capability. IT team doing the best they can. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat detection, incident response, and attack surface management supported by RADICL 24x7 vSOC staffed by experts across various cybersecurity domains.
Compliance Peace Of Mind Vs. Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management team spending cycles thinking about compliance mandates and concerns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management team focused on running the business and serving their customer mission.
NIST 800-171 Differentiation vs. Gap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to confidently promote their compliance posture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to leverage NIST SP 800-171 compliance as a differentiator in government contracts and relationships.
1 Security Headcount vs. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Had been planning to hire two headcount to support internal cybersecurity and compliance needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With RADICL, haven't needed to hire anyone yet, and when do, only budgeting for a single headcount vs. two.

Vatn found RADICL through its existing networks. After investigating RADICL's Xtended Threat Protection (XTP) Platform, Mills was convinced that there was fit. "RADICL demonstrated its incredibly comprehensive platform," said Mills. "RADICL's team is very knowledgeable which gave us the confidence to make the leap to evaluate RADICL's unique solution." In addition, Mills said he didn't see a lot of other viable alternatives that gave him sufficient confidence that they understood the defense market and compliance requirements like NIST SP 800-171 the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC).



“Deploying RADICL’s platform was quick and easy,” said Mills. “One installed, we assigned one person to interact with the XTP workflow-based platform and found that RADICL’s vSOC made it completely possible for one person to manage everything pretty easily.”

“The value is time, peace of mind, and cost savings,” Mills explained. “For the vast majority of companies and people, it’s not worthwhile to spend the time building out those systems and piecing together everything that RADICL delivers. It would be difficult to build something as secure and proactive in-house.”

FROM -197 TO 89 NIST SP 800-171 SPRS SCORE

Prior to RADICL, Vatn had engaged a consultant to guide their NIST SP 800-171 compliance process. Unfortunately, their consultant had led them astray, leading them to believe they could post a SPRS NIST self-assessment score of 80. Had Vatn posted this score, they could have been vulnerable to DoJ False Claims Act (FCA) prosecution.

When RADICL got involved, XTP:COMPLY was used to guide a fast and rigorous self-assessment that showed an actual score of -197. RADICL then worked with Vatn on an accelerated schedule to remediate compliance gaps. In short order, a majority of weaknesses had been addressed and Vatn was able to confidently post an evidence backed score of 89.

“With RADICL, we don’t have to think about cybersecurity or compliance nearly as much as we used to,” said Mills. “We can focus on our growing our business and serving our customers, confident that RADICL has our back. - Nelson Mills

Conclusion

As Vatn continues to grow, RADICL will help ensure that its technology, intellectual property and innovations are protected against possible attack. RADICL will also ensure Vatn continues to evolve its compliance posture, ensuring it is ideally positioned to compete for and win government contracts. With RADICL in place, Vatn can focus its’ time, energy, and budget into fueling the future of our nation’s defense.



Protect your business with RADICL's
Xtended Threat Protection.

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