



# SecurityScorecard Improves UNICC's Cyber Hygiene

## Ratings Help Defend 80+ United Nations Partner Organizations from Cyberattack

### CUSTOMER SUCCESS

#### COMPANY

United Nations International  
Computing Centre (UNICC)

#### INDUSTRY

Public Sector

#### HEADQUARTERS

Geneva, Switzerland

#### PRODUCTS USED

Ratings

#### USE CASES

- Self Monitoring
- Third-Party Risk Management
- Attack Surface Management

#### WHY SSC

- Depth of data
- Ease of use and reporting
- In-house expertise and support

With facilities in Geneva, Switzerland; New York, USA; Brindisi and Rome, Italy; and Valencia, Spain, the United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC) has over 50 years of experience as a strategic partner in the United Nations system in providing trusted services and digital business solutions.

*“It’s not a question of **IF** you will suffer a breach, because if you are targeted it is a question of **WHEN** bad actors will get into your infrastructure.”*

**Alejandro Bustos**  
Senior Information  
Security Administrator

## The Challenge

Since UNICC provides strategic partnerships in delivering digital business solutions to many United Nations organizations, the information they manage falls within a broad scope of sources, including political, environmental, climate, PII, health, energy, maritime, refugee, and intellectual property sectors.

Its broad worldwide presence makes UNICC an attractive target for potential cyber-attack by a wide range of threat actors with varied motivations. Beyond financial or data loss, a successful breach of UNICC could have other adverse consequences.

If adversaries put information into the wrong hands regarding the location of refugees within a conflict zone, for example, a potential loss of human life could result. Therefore, the seriousness of protecting the digital footprint and security posture of UNICC and its partners is paramount.

Because of the broad scope of UNICC's attack surface, threat actors are always looking to find just ONE vulnerability to target and try to exploit. As Alejandro Bustos, UNICC's Senior Information Security Administrator explains, "It's not a question of IF you will suffer a breach, because if you are targeted it is a question of WHEN bad actors will get into your infrastructure."

*"Bad actors have identified a lack of protection and they are using less technical and more social-based methods to not only plan, but also execute an attack."*

**Alejandro Bustos**

Senior Information  
Security Administrator



## The Solution

**UNICC turned to SecurityScorecard to help improve and highlight its security posture to its partners and the public.**

Using cyber risk ratings and the information SecurityScorecard surfaces, UNICC was able to identify the “low-hanging fruit” of vulnerabilities and address them before they became a larger issue. For example, SecurityScorecard detected a DNS issue where there was no operational disruption or negative effect on UNICC’s partners. UNICC was able to fix the issue in a timely manner thanks to the SecurityScorecard platform and the unexpected drastic drop of the DNS Health risk score alerting UNICC to a potential problem.

“The help from the SecurityScorecard team is excellent and was all about satisfying the needs of a customer, prioritizing what we needed and were asking for, with the aim of making us happy... and it worked!”

**Alejandro Bustos**  
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UNICC also uses SecurityScorecard to fulfill a variety of day-to-day use cases and monitoring including:



### SELF-MONITORING

Leverage SecurityScorecard reporting to help benchmark the scores of UNICC partners for partner cyber risk scoring as well as average industry scores.



### AUTOMATING SECURITY ASSESSMENTS

Send and receive automated security questionnaires to UNICC partners and other vendors.



### REPORTING AND ANALYTICS

Demonstrate a deep level of granularity for specific partners, including what to prioritize based on the vulnerabilities SecurityScorecard detects.

In addition to the platform, UNICC found that the SecurityScorecard people they work with regularly make a difference when there is an issue they are trying to solve.

Alejandro Bustos from UNICC goes on to say, “the help from the SecurityScorecard team is excellent and was all about satisfying the needs of the customer, prioritizing what we needed and were asking for, with the aim of making us happy, and it worked!”

## Results and Benefits

With SecurityScorecard, UNICC is able to reduce the risk of a breach, making the work for threat actors more difficult. The information that SecurityScorecard provides helps UNICC justify steps taken to eliminate weaknesses such as application security, DNS health, and network security in UNICC and its partners.

Alejandro Bustos says, “When we started using SecurityScorecard, it was like removing a bandage from our eyes where we could see what we could only guess before. After a few months of working on what was observed, the only thought that came to our minds was, “Why did we not have this before?”

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## Conclusion

SecurityScorecard was critical to improving the security posture of UNICC and its partners in terms of cyber hygiene, demonstrating the cyber health of an organization from an information security perspective. Without deep insights into what potential vulnerabilities exist within its infrastructure and that of its partners, UNICC could be open to a greater risk of suffering from a potential attack from a threat actor, costing vast financial losses or potentially even loss of life.

## ABOUT SECURITYSCORECARD

Funded by world-class investors including Evolution Equity Partners, Silver Lake Waterman, Sequoia Capital, GV, Riverwood Capital, and others, SecurityScorecard is the global leader in cybersecurity ratings with more than 12 million companies continuously rated. Founded in 2013 by security and risk experts Dr. Aleksandr Yampolskiy and Sam Kassoumeh, SecurityScorecard’s patented rating technology is used by over 50,000 organizations for enterprise risk management, third-party risk management, board reporting, due diligence, cyber insurance underwriting, and regulatory oversight. SecurityScorecard is the first cybersecurity ratings company to offer digital forensics and incident response services, providing a 360-degree approach to security prevention and response for its worldwide customer and partner base. SecurityScorecard continues to make the world a safer place by transforming the way companies understand, improve and communicate cybersecurity risk to their boards, employees and vendors. Every organization has the universal right to their trusted and transparent [Instant SecurityScorecard](#) rating. For more information, visit [securityscorecard.com](#) or connect with us on [LinkedIn](#).

