



» SERVICES



THE QUEEN'S AWARDS
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Security Company'

Secure
Coding

Secure Coding

One of the least understood and often overlooked elements of a secure environment is the custom software deployed within an enterprise environment. Developing secure applications is a continual balance between the need of security, and the pressures of development life cycle. To assist our clients, NGSConsulting offers a range of secure coding services.

NGSSoftware's Consultants have published numerous authoritative white papers concerning this little understood area of computer security, and are regularly invited to speak at industry events, and provide bespoke specialist training. Consultants have contributed various chapters to publications as diverse as 'SQL Server Security' (Osbourne McGraw-Hill) and 'The Shellcoder's Handbook' (John Wiley & Sons). NGSConsulting considers secure coding as one of the most important subjects within security and one that if addressed correctly, can significantly mitigate risk within client environments.

This document highlights a range of secure coding services offered by NGSConsulting - discussing the methodology, describing the practical benefits of selecting NGSConsulting as a service provider and outlining key service deliverables.

» Services Offered

NGSConsulting provides a range of secure coding services. These services include:

- » **Application Code Review** - NGSConsulting excels at the analysis and audit of source code for mission critical applications or distributed application components, successfully uncovering almost all insecure coding practices. Working closely with the clients development team during the analysis phases, Consultants will focus upon key elements of the coding structure such as authentication processes, data validation, and session management.
- » **Software Outsourcing** - The concept of software outsourcing has become increasingly familiar. In an effort to reduce development overheads and minimise timescales, many organisations are outsourcing their software development. Although this approach has significant gains, it can also hold significant pitfalls. The process of outsourcing commonly introduces security risks associated with poor coding practices and inadequate infrastructure design. Consultants are adept at reducing this insecurity in the outsourcing process as all the projects upon which we engage will equip the software development process with a detailed security practice and awareness.
- » **Application Architecture Design** - Working in tandem with our clients, NGSSoftware's consultants will assist in the architecture and design of secure software. Following client consultation and scoping of the technical requirements, NGSConsulting will help design applications that meet the initial design criteria as well as identifying all the components of the project that may carry the largest business risks - making recommendations on methods and techniques designed to mitigate these risks.

» Methodology

The Secure Coding services offered by NGSConsulting are governed by a structured methodology.

This four-stage process is as follows:

» Stage One: Initiation

During this initial stage, NGSSoftware's consultants liaise with the client to determine any scope or timescale limitations of the project. If necessary, proposals and contracts will be exchanged during this phase. This enables the client to be assured of subsequent processes and deliverables.

» Stage Two: Requirements and Strategy

The client's technical requirements are thoroughly detailed during this stage of the secure coding process. NGSSoftware's Consultants liaise with key technical, managerial, and developmental staff to gain a detailed overview of the desired application and the purpose to which it will serve.

» Stage Three: Build and Review

During this stage of the secure coding process, NGSSoftware's consultants will begin the code analysis, development or design as dictated by the client's requirements. Regular knowledge transfers and progress updates occur between Consultants and the client's technical contacts - ensuring a tight fit with the formalised requirements. Where applicable, the build and review stage will be collaborative in nature.

» Stage Four: Document

Dependent upon the nature of the project undertaken, NGSSoftware will provide a detailed Final Report. This report contains the findings, actions and further recommendations on securing the application code.



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» Benefits

Selecting NGSSoftware as suppliers of secure coding services provides a number of key benefits, these include:

- » NGSSoftware's Consultants are amongst the foremost global authorities on secure coding practice and issues. Our expert skills set allows us to engage in best practice development techniques and ensure that the client deliverables are formed around a secure architecture, as well as meeting the initial project scope.
- » NGSSoftware offers clients improved timescales and productivity. By focusing on secure development techniques during the developmental process itself, clients can avoid the time consuming process of having to identify and resolve security defects at some later date. By gaining an understanding of secure development techniques our clients are then in a position to practice and integrate such techniques independently.
- » By taking a proactive approach to security factors at the inception of the application development process, clients and NGSSoftware can construct high-quality, secure applications as well as reducing costs and risk.

» Deliverables

During the Secure Coding process, NGSSoftware's Consultants are available to discuss any results that may have been formulated, as well as outlining the processes involved.

The key deliverables throughout the assessment consist of:

- » Immediate notification to our clients of any high-risk vulnerabilities as and when they are discovered.
- » Delivery of interim reports detailing testing completed and findings at the end of each working day.
- » Scheduled conferences at the beginning of each day to discuss issues identified in previous daily reporting.
- » Consultants will be available at any point during the assessment process to discuss any issues that may arise.
- » A Final Report encompassing all activities and findings during the course of the assessment. This report is split into several key sections:
 - » A Management Summary listing areas of weakness within the coding and their respective business impacts.
 - » An Assessment Overview detailing the scope and objectives of the project undertaken, and the methodology utilised by the Consultants.
 - » Technical Findings detailing any security vulnerabilities discovered during the testing process, and providing detailed explanations of all the security implications. Comprehensive remediation information will be supplied including alternatives should the preferable solution be impractical.
 - » Conclusions detailing managerial and technical recommendations to the client, with a view to mitigating short term risks, as well as long term strategic solutions.
 - » Exploit Code - Where applicable NGSSoftware will provide the unique service of providing clients with demonstration exploit code.
 - » Additional Recommendations - Where the client is unable to fix any affected elements, or the costs of doing so is prohibitive, NGSSoftware will provide a range of recommendations to mitigate any vulnerabilities discovered during the testing process.
- » A presentation to technical or management staff follows the delivery of the final report.

» Contact Details

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