



Overview of Case Study

How accounting firm Bowman & Company LLP used Airlock Digital's application control and allowlisting solution to protect its people, business and clients from cybersecurity threats.

About Bowman & Company LLP

Bowman & Company LLP is one of the largest accounting firms in the Delaware Valley and the largest in Southern New Jersey, with more than 100 dedicated professionals.



Challenge

Upgrade from an on-premises allowlisting product to a cloud-based application control and allowlisting solution with superior functionality at a competitive price point.



Approach

Bowman & Company LLP asked CrowdStrike to recommend application control and allowlisting solutions that integrated with its EDR product. CrowdStrike put forward Airlock Digital's solution and the accounting firm conducted a comprehensive evaluation of its features and functionality.



Result

Integrating the Airlock Digital solution into its cybersecurity stack has enabled Bowman & Company LLP to minimize cyber risk, including blocking malware and ransomware.

The solution's price met our needs, it was cloud-based and its agents had lean resource requirements.

Kevin Kraft

IT Director and Chief Information Security Officer, Bowman & Company LLP

The Airlock Digital Application Control and Allowlisting Solution

With the Airlock Digital application control and allowlisting solution, Bowman & Company LLP has:

- protected its business, its people, and its clients from cybersecurity threats such as ransomware
- minimized the lean IT team's allowlisting workload with just 15 minutes per day needed to review block data and add new applications to policy
- accelerated troubleshooting and issues management with client-side logging

About Airlock Digital

Airlock Digital is the global leader in application control and allowlisting, trusted by organizations worldwide to protect against ransomware, malware and other cyber threats.



The Customer

Established in 1939 and headquartered in New Jersey, the United States, Bowman & Company LLP provides public accounting and audit services to commercial and public sector organizations.

The firm relies on an effective cyber security stack, policies and processes to protect sensitive client data including bank account and credit card statements, payroll listings and tax returns.

The Challenge

About nine years ago Bowman & Company LLP decided to ramp up efforts to explore application control and allowlisting. In response to an increase in ransomware and other threats, the firm deployed an on-premises allowlisting and network EDR suite.

When Bowman & Company LLP opted to move these capabilities to the cloud, the firm found that its incumbent vendor lacked mature and cost-effective cloud offerings. It decided to transition to a CrowdStrike cloud EDR and anti-malware product.

The firm's team asked CrowdStrike to recommend application control and allowlisting companies with solutions that integrated smoothly with its product, and the vendor recommended Airlock Digital.

The Approach

An evaluation and POC on a select number of endpoints found the Airlock Digital solution was the best fit for Bowman & Company LLP's needs. It blocked unapproved applications, files and processes, with log data enabling the IT team to easily identify malware and determine what applications or files should be allowlisted.

"In addition, the solution's price met our needs, it was cloud-based and its agents had lean resource requirements," explained Kevin Kraft, IT Director and Chief Information Security Officer, Bowman & Company LLP.

With the Airlock Digital solution, the Bowman & Company LLP IT team was able to identify the files and dependencies that comprised a single application package, approve them and 'bulk add' them to its allowlist.

Furthermore, Kraft was able to set up a secured group of technicians able to provide exceptions through one-time passwords (OTPs) on a self-service basis, further reducing the administrative burden on the IT team.

The firm decided to purchase the Airlock Digital solution in mid-2021 and migrated profiles created during the POC directly into its production tenant. The solution now runs on Windows utility and end-user endpoints, including servers, desktops including shared-use workstations, conference-room equipment, and employee and contractor laptops. The Airlock Digital agent is also running efficiently in virtual desktop environments.

The Result

The Airlock Digital application control and allowlisting solution is integrated into an effective security stack that incorporates CrowdStrike and other leading vendors, positioning the firm to minimize cyber-risk and stave off ransomware and malware.

The solution enables Bowman & Company LLP's lean IT team to minimize the time and resources dedicated to application control and allowlisting.

After completing initial onboarding activities including creating policies to match run-of-business applications and files, the team spends only about 15 minutes a day checking the solution console for blocking data.

The Bowman & Company LLP IT team is now able to combine proactive allowlisting in cases such as application updates with workflows that require users to request an application be added to the firm's allowlist.

Kraft lists his favorite feature of the Airlock Digital solution as client-side logging, "Rather than working through an administration console, we can simply open an agent to view block events," he said. "This helps us troubleshoot issues faster and more effectively."

Enhancing cybersecurity training

With the solution delivering granular visibility of user activity, Bowman & Company LLP is adapting its cybersecurity training to better protect people, data and the firm.

Bowman & Company LLP now expects its cyber risk profile to remain unchanged as it executes its expansion strategy.