



## CASE STUDY

---

# Aurora Performs Comprehensive Remote Security Analysis for Stericycle, Minimizing Disruption and Costs

### The Organization

Based in Lake Forest, Illinois, Stericycle works with companies in a wide array of industries to improve employee and customer safety, ensure regulatory compliance, safely dispose of regulated materials, and manage corporate and personal risk. The company operates in the U.S., United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Romania and Portugal, and it continues to pursue opportunities to enter new countries and offer new services.

### The Challenge

A company devoted to the protection of its clients must naturally be concerned with its own security and protection, especially in the area of securing client data and communication. That is why Stericycle conducts an annual assessment to detect and resolve any problems.

"Over the years, we've used a different company each year to get fresh eyes on our network," said Sheri Bardin, Stericycle's IT Security Manager in southern California. "This includes having all of our external IP addresses scanned, and a sampling of our internal addresses as well. We're not looking for anything specific, just any noticeable issues so we can resolve them and help secure our network."

### The Solution

For the most recent security assessment of its national and international facilities, Bardin contacted Aurora. The company performed an automated and manual network assessment to identify potential security vulnerabilities within specific IPs, to look at the data communications controls, and to assess the processes and procedures in place around vulnerability management. The evaluation focused on vulnerability assessment, host security, patch management, and a review of policies and procedures.

### Solution at a Glance

Aurora performed a comprehensive security assessment at Stericycle remotely and non-disruptively, saving several thousand dollars in travel costs that a prior security consulting company charged for the same project.

---

*"It worked out really well. I was very happy with their work."*

**—Sheri Bardin, Stericycle**



## The Solution (Continued)

“Our process helps to determine the extent to which an enterprise may be vulnerable to scan for potential risks from internal and external threats,” said Gary Bahadur, Manager of Security Services at Aurora. “Our services afford a swift, proficient, and non-disruptive assessment of the security of information assets, communications, and control infrastructure.”

Vulnerability scans were conducted to highlight weaknesses in network-level security. Aurora utilized a combination of multiple security industry tools, utilities, and methodologies to review all potential points of security failure. To determine the current state of Stericycle’s operational security architecture, Aurora also reviewed a number of key security policies to expose any gaps in security operations.

## Results

“Based on our analysis, we were able to suggest recommendations for enhancements to help reduce the acceptable level of risk,” Bahadur said.

Noted Bardin: “The companies we used in the past have come onsite to do their scanning and testing. One of the things that was different with Aurora is they did everything remotely. I was unsure of how that was going to work, but it worked out really well. I was very happy with their work.”

Remote analysis also made it easier to conduct security assessments in Stericycle facilities outside the United States. “We had them test one facility in Mexico and one in Argentina,” Bardin explained. “They needed external access to a server at each site. There was a communication gap, but they were very tenacious, and were able to get their testing results completed and gather the data they needed. I was very impressed with their due diligence.”

The benefits of offsite analysis were further illuminated after an incident with a different security firm that Bardin

assumed was locally owned and operated. “It turns out their security engineers were from North Carolina, so I received a bill for their hotel rooms, food, and rental car, which came to a couple of thousand dollars,” she recalls. “And that was above and beyond the fee they charged for the security assessment.”

Aurora provided Stericycle with a comprehensive report on their findings, along with suggested guidelines on how to address any issues. “Everything they found we have already remediated,” said Bardin, who has already suggested to another Stericycle facility that they contact Aurora for their security needs.

## Benefits of Remote vs. Onsite Security Assessment

Prior Security Firm	Aurora
» Worked onsite: flew consultants in to test and scan for annual assessment	» Worked remotely: able to conduct all tests and scans from afar
» Some disruption to operations	» No disruption to operations
» Travel costs were higher than anticipated	» Several thousand dollars saved in travel costs
	» Customer: “It worked out really well, I was very happy with their (Aurora’s) work.”

## About Aurora®

For over 23 years, Aurora has been architecting, deploying and managing complex enterprise security solutions that solve complex business challenges. Headquartered in Southern California and supporting customers worldwide, Aurora continues to be one of the fastest growing security solution providers in the nation. For more information, visit [www.aurorait.com](http://www.aurorait.com).