

# AI locks up hidden threats

## Anthony Collins Solicitors protects client confidentiality with network detection and response

Unnecessary surgery. Special guardianship for disabled children. Due diligence before a housing association merger. It's all in a day's work for Anthony Collins Solicitors, a law firm in Birmingham, Manchester that focuses on improving people's lives, communities and society.

With a mission of social purpose, Anthony Collins Solicitors works with schools, housing authorities and charities as well as advises local governments, values-driven businesses and individuals.

"Our biggest asset is our clients' information," says Paul Harker, head of IT at Anthony Collins Solicitors. "Protecting our clients' information was a priority even before there was a cyber risk."

## A proactive approach to risk management

The dangers of an always-connected digital world are fueling risk. For cybercriminals, law firms are goldmines of intellectual property, including confidential information that they can leverage for insider trading, fraud, extortion and embarrassment. Law firms are increasingly targeted in supply chain attacks, as cybercriminals seek to compromise the firm's clients via their trusted partners.

Regulations like the European Union General Data Protection Requirement (GDPR) make it even more important for businesses to detect and respond to threats quickly and thoroughly.

"Perimeter defences are imperfect," says Harker. That's why Anthony Collins Solicitors takes a proactive approach to safeguarding the firms' data assets, protecting against both external attacks and insider threat.

## Anthony Collins solicitors

### Organization

Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP

### Industry

Legal

### Challenge

Protect confidential data from cyberattackers to uphold client trust

### Selection criteria

Automate threat hunting to detect and respond faster to attacks

### Results

- 360-degree visibility reveals unknown and hidden threats
- Guard against criminal attacks and unintentional compromises to uphold client privacy and ensure compliance
- Transform IT systems administrators into highly skilled Tier-3 security analysts

“It wakes you up when you realise how easy it is for an individual to be compromised one way or another,” says Harker. “Our biggest threat is attacks from the outside and employees can be compromised without their knowledge.”

## Automation is empowering

Anthony Collins Solicitors decided to automate threat detection to detect attacks in real time, protecting the firm’s data assets and reputation, while empowering the IT team to focus on threat hunting and investigations.

“It doesn’t matter how big you are as an organisation,” says Harker. “The threat is just as big. If there’s money to be made, someone will try to attack you.”

Anthony Collins Solicitors turned to the Cognito® platform from Vectra® for AI-powered network detection and response. Cognito provides 360-degree visibility across the enterprise, from data centre and cloud workloads to user and IoT devices, leaving attackers with nowhere to hide.

Cognito accelerates threat hunting and investigation using sophisticated machine learning algorithms and by collecting, storing and enriching network metadata. With Cognito, the security team at Anthony Collins Solicitors has the right context to detect, hunt and investigate known and unknown threats at scale.

“By filtering out the noise, Vectra gives us a view of real risks in a very clear way,” says Harker.

## Prioritising the highest risks

Cognito eliminates the overwhelming noise of other security tools because it relies on the only source of truth during a cyberattack – network traffic. Only traffic on the wire can reveal the truth with complete fidelity. Attackers can delete logs, but they can’t erase their footprints in the network.

When Cognito detects a threat, the security team at Anthony Collins Solicitors can take swift action. With the most relevant context at the ready, the security team has a clear starting point for incident investigations. There’s no need for hours and days of manual threat correlations and hunting. With the power of Cognito, a generalist IT administrator is empowered as a highly skilled security analyst.

## Threat detection that doesn’t sleep

“Vectra is another pair of eyes on our network, and that gives us reassurance,” says Harker.

Cognito showed off its superpowers during a recent penetration test. The law firm is always on the lookout to understand its security weaknesses and further improve its posture.

“We didn’t know the pen testers were coming in,” says Harker. “But within minutes, Cognito lit up, identified and triaged the threat behaviours. It was fantastic.”

## A trusted relationship

Harker appreciates Vectra’s mission to help customers be the best threat hunters they can be.

“The quarterly business reviews with Vectra are an indispensable value-added service,” he says. “Having a strong relationship with a vendor in cybersecurity is essential to protecting the firm and our clients.”

## Staying ahead of cybercriminals

“We’ve had some attacks, but none that were successful,” says Harker. “We feel ahead of the game with Vectra, and I wonder where we would have been without it,” says Harker.

“*Vectra gives us a view of real risks in a very clear way. It filters out the noise.*”

Paul Harker  
Head of IT  
Anthony Collins Solicitors



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