



Vaporstream Puts Privacy at the Forefront of Its Flagship App

Leakproof enterprise messaging developer relies on NowSecure to test and certify the security and privacy of its Android and iOS mobile applications.

About

Vaporstream, a privately held software provider based in Chicago, makes a secure communication platform that enables confidential and leakproof conversations, disappearing messages and advanced content controls. The company helps customers in energy, finance, government, healthcare, higher education and law safeguard their data while maintaining compliance.

Executive Summary

Vaporstream develops a leakproof mobile enterprise messaging application for highly regulated industries that must tightly control the dissemination of data while maintaining compliance. Providing the digital equivalent of disappearing ink, the Vaporstream platform supports clinical collaboration, patient engagement, executive communications, private collaboration, business continuity and incident response.

NowSecure has long been a trusted partner of Vaporstream to help the software maker achieve the following benefits:

- Foster a corporate culture centered around security and privacy
- Gain assurance that its mobile app is free of security, privacy and compliance issues prior to release
- Provide potential customers with independent third-party mobile app security and privacy validation for auditing purposes

“We build product security into everything we design for—security by design is what we do.”

— Vaporstream Chief Technology Officer Avi Elkoni

The Story

Organizations in regulated sectors such as energy, finance, healthcare and government must uphold strict privacy and security requirements – and hold their suppliers and service providers to the same high standards. That means businesses that rely on Vaporstream for confidential communications also demand independent verification to confirm that the solution is secure and private by design.

Vaporstream built its ironclad messaging solution from the ground up to be secure by design and enable the utmost degree of privacy. “Security is about countering attackers and privacy is about content control,” says Vaporstream Chief Technology Officer Avi Elkoni. For instance, many people have felt the sting of the recipient of a private text message or email forwarding it to someone else.

Just because a message was encrypted and delivered securely doesn't prevent it from being used in a manner other than the sender intended.

Vaporstream designed its messaging platform to give enterprises complete control of their data. They can prevent information from being saved locally or uploaded to the cloud. They can protect messages from lingering on devices for too long by shredding a message on demand or wiping data at set intervals. And enterprises can retain and control data in a repository while complying with complex regulatory requirements.

The Vaporstream secure messaging platform includes Android and iOS mobile applications as well as a web client. The application empowers users to control encryption keys, archival, and how and when their data is used. For example, users can shred chat messages on both their and other recipients' devices or schedule messages to be deleted after a certain time period. It also prevents Personally Identifiable Information (PII) from being uploaded to the cloud, saved on devices, or otherwise shared.

From the time of the company's inception, security and privacy have permeated the corporate culture. "We build product security into everything we design for — security by design is what we do," says Elkoni.

For example, Vaporstream develops the product from its Chicago headquarters. The company does not outsource development and will never offshore, says CEO Galina Datskovsky. Vaporstream architected the messaging platform so that no footprint is left on a device and no data is stored in the cloud. In addition, the company relies on cloud services from both Amazon Web Services and Microsoft Azure in multiple regions for redundancy and constant availability.

Operating in two-week sprints using Agile and DevOps methodologies, Vaporstream developers apply secure coding practices to build 10 - 12 releases per year. "It's very important that every time we go through the cycle of creating something new and delivering it to our customers, we need to ensure that it's secure," Elkoni says.

Recognizing the need for complete security and privacy testing, Vaporstream selected NowSecure for its exclusive focus on mobile security and depth of capabilities, including automated mobile appsec testing software and expert pen testing and certification services.

Vaporstream tests each and every release candidate for security, privacy and compliance issues with NowSecure Platform automated mobile application security testing software. The NowSecure SaaS solution integrates into the CI/CD toolchain to deliver full-coverage assessments within 15 minutes and automatically notifies developers of any security or privacy issues.

The Vaporstream team relies on NowSecure Platform as a final checkpoint against vulnerabilities to provide the confidence that code is secure. "From the moment NowSecure introduced the solution to us two years ago, it was clear that it deserved a place in our testing process," said Elkoni.

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— Vaporstream CEO Galina Datskovsky

In addition, Vaporstream engages the NowSecure services team for comprehensive annual manual penetration testing to certify its mobile app. NowSecure experts apply an aggressive threat model and evaluate the mobile attack surface to evaluate data at rest, data in motion, backend APIs and code quality to uncover vulnerabilities.

The independent validation from NowSecure gives Vaporstream customers peace of mind about its apps' security, privacy and compliance standing. In fact, mobile app security certification is a key requirement to doing business with organizations that require security audits. "Don't trust any company that tells you they're secure but hasn't had an appropriate expert third-party verification," advises Datskovsky. "An impartial third-party assessment is really the only way to double check and triple check."

All of these thoughtful security measures throughout the software development lifecycle make Vaporstream the world's most secure and private enterprise messaging solution heavily trusted by risk-averse industries.

NowSecure delivers fully automated mobile app security testing software with speed, accuracy, and efficiency for Agile and DevOps initiatives. Through static, dynamic, and behavioral analysis on real Android and iOS devices, NowSecure identifies the broadest array of security threats, compliance gaps, and privacy risks. For more information: www.nowsecure.com