



BLACK KITE



# BLACK KITE & THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS HEALTH SYSTEM

August 2023

A Black Kite Case Study

The University of Kansas Health System matures its cybersecurity program and better protects patient safety with Black Kite.

Located in Kansas City, Kansas, the University of Kansas Health System is a nonprofit health system with multiple branches throughout the state. The University of Kansas Health System combines research, education, and patient care with facilities that treat over 300,000 visitors annually.

## WHY BLACK KITE?

For the University of Kansas Health System, having an accurate, holistic view of every third-party vendor with access to its data is critical. If one vendor flies under the radar and an attack happens before the University of Kansas Health System can prepare, every patient's data privacy is at risk.

The University of Kansas Health System needed a more sophisticated risk monitoring solution to:

- **Make better decisions**
- **Operate more efficiently**
- **Prioritize patient data safety**
- **Streamline its questionnaire process**
- **Mature its cybersecurity program**



**A lot of third-party rating services just give you a list of findings... We needed a tool that could translate the findings into actionable steps to improve our security posture.**

– Cybersecurity Analyst at the  
University of Kansas Health System

# THE OPPORTUNITY WITH BLACK KITE

**“Often, you hear about a new vulnerability, issue, or data breach happening, and you have to scramble to reach out to all your critical vendors to find out if they were affected. With Black Kite, we can automatically pinpoint the potentially affected vendors and only reach out to them.”**

## CHALLENGE

Originally, the University of Kansas Health System used internally-built questionnaires to assess vendor risk. This manual, qualitative risk assessment process took a significant amount of the security team’s time and attention. Plus, the University of Kansas Health System still struggled to accurately diagnose and resolve vendor vulnerabilities.

“Sometimes, these risk assessments would take almost a month to return because the process heavily depends on consistent communication with our vendors, getting the questionnaires back, and then digging through every response,” said a cybersecurity analyst at the University of Kansas Health System.

## APPROACH

The University of Kansas Health System set out to improve the maturity of its cybersecurity program so it could better prioritize patient privacy and safety. To do so, the organization implemented Black Kite’s full Third Party Risk Intelligence solution, including its Technical Cyber Rating feature, financial impact in quantified form, and Ransomware Susceptibility Index® (RSI™). With these features, the University of Kansas Health System gained a comprehensive view of third-party vendor risk and could make more informed, proactive decisions for patient safety.

## REASONING

An employee at the University of Kansas Health System used Black Kite in a previous role, and they knew that Black Kite’s solutions offered the coverage, detail, and transparency required to elevate its cybersecurity program. With Black Kite’s [Technical Cyber Rating](#) feature, the cybersecurity analyst team could access an easy-to-understand, trustworthy snapshot of third-party vendor risk any time they wanted. By representing a vendor’s cyber hygiene via letter grade, the University of Kansas Health System team can now determine if a vendor has the proper cybersecurity practices in place to prevent an attack that could affect the University of Kansas Health System’s revenue and patient safety.

With Black Kite’s RSI™ specifically, the University of Kansas Health System can:

- Understand which vendors are most prone to ransomware.
- Quickly develop a data-driven course of action for remediation.
- Avoid production, reputation, & financial loss with new data-driven policies.

# SOLUTION

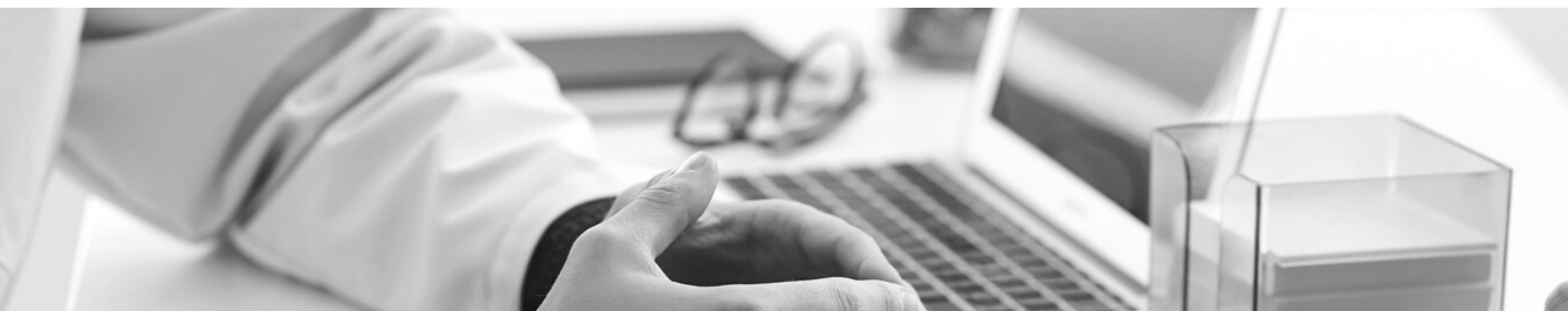
With Black Kite in place, the University of Kansas Health System team now has a more comprehensive view of its third-party landscape to proactively address vendor risk – without the endless hours of questionnaire reviews.

After implementing Black Kite, the cybersecurity analyst team at the University of Kansas Health System realized the questions in their previous risk assessments were not as conclusive as previously thought. In fact, Black Kite's ratings offer a more granular view into vendor risk that helps the University of Kansas Health System better identify vendors above their risk threshold and take steps to decrease risk while keeping that vendor.

Additionally, using Black Kite allows the University of Kansas Health System to pinpoint the specific vendors who could be at risk in a situation. For example: The Log4j attack in 2021. When ransomware groups exploited a Log4j vulnerability, the University of Kansas Health System was able to identify every vendor specifically vulnerable to the attack. Before Black Kite, the cybersecurity team would have sent a blanket email in the hopes of getting information from the vendors, and then sifted through every answer.

**“Utilizing Black Kite, we can get an instantaneous overarching view of our third-party vendors and their security posture. It really speeds up the process of assessing vendor risk for sure. Also, being able to identify new weaknesses that pop up on the fly is extremely helpful in keeping patient data safe.”**

By leveraging a solution that makes it easy to measure vendor risk and quickly put an action plan in place if anything were to happen, the University of Kansas Health System's patients can feel confident knowing the organization does everything in its power to keep patient information and data secure.



# ABOUT BLACK KITE





Our deep insights help you ease the stress of cyber ecosystem risk management. We do this by giving you more than a risk score. Our automated system provides real-time and accurate risk intelligence. Our data is accurate, reliable and detailed so you can improve business resilience by making informed risk decisions across your entire ever-changing cyber ecosystem.


**With Black Kite you get More than a Score™.**

**EXPERIENCE THE BLACK KITE PLATFORM  
YOURSELF WITH A FREE CYBER ASSESSMENT**

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