

Malvertising Defense Case Study

How STEP Network Protects Its Publisher Network From Malvertising

STEP Network is one of the largest digital advertising networks in the Nordics, ranging from National news sites to small niche sites and classifieds. The company operates more than 225,000,000 page views per month and reaches +80% of the Danish internet population. STEP Network is a growth partner to publishers. The company's mission is to help publishers reach their goals concerning both monetization and keeping their sites/brands safe.

Challenge

The STEP Network was hit with a wave of malicious redirect attacks that were so pervasive, the company's AdOps team had to disable any advertisements that had the potential of being the entry point for attack. The disabled ads represented more than half of the company's advertisements, ultimately resulting in them sacrificing a significant chunk of advertising revenue to preserve user experience while sorting out the problem.

Not only did STEP Network have to sacrifice revenue, but the AdOps team—about three full-time staff members—couldn't focus on anything else during the attack. Every second of their time went to trying to find the problem and fix it.

"The best part about Malvertising Defense is how quickly and easily we can onboard new publisher sites. It takes about 10-15 seconds to install the script on our publisher websites, and they are instantly protected."

— Jekaterina Rogovenko,
Programmatic Lead,
STEP Network

Solution: Malvertising Defense

This situation left STEP Network's AdOps team searching furiously for a solution that would end the problem once and for all. With the editorial staff concerned about the company's vulnerability to future malicious ad campaigns, the AdOps team needed a 100% effective solution to resume typical ad operations.

The team landed on [Malvertising Defense](#) because of these key features:



EASY IMPLEMENTATION

Previous solutions required STEP Network to be constantly monitoring and updating their protection, with various steps of implementation. A single line of code is all that's required to implement Malvertising Defense. The solution runs seamlessly in the background, continuously updating without relying on traditional sandboxing and blocklist techniques.



MAINTENANCE FREE OPERATIONS

STEP Network's AdOps teams were spending 100% of their time tracking down and removing bad ads. Malvertising Defense's behavior-based approach stops known and novel threats instantly, eliminating manual intervention and giving STEP Networks its time back.

Results

Since those fateful attacks, STEP Network has transformed from a single website into a thriving publisher network of approximately 80 unique publishers. Malvertising Defense has become a vital part of its value proposition to publishers, as one of the many benefits of joining the company's network is full-stop protection from malvertising. It makes the network that much more attractive to join and has improved the experience for every publisher in STEP Network. The team at STEP has highlighted these key results:

RECOVERED WORK HOURS

Three team members were spending up to 120 hours a week battling bad ads. With Malvertising Defense's maintenance-free, future-proof protection, that time can be refocused on business growth opportunities.

FULL STOP PROTECTION

Based on conversations the STEP Network team has had with colleagues across Denmark, major attack patterns happen regularly in approximately six month-cycles. But, the STEP Network team has felt precisely zero of them.

About HUMAN

HUMAN is a leading cybersecurity company committed to protecting the integrity of the digital world. We ensure that every digital interaction, transaction, and connection is authentic, secure, and human. HUMAN verifies 20 trillion digital interactions, providing unparalleled telemetry data to enable rapid, effective responses to the most sophisticated threats. Recognized by our customers as a G2 Leader, HUMAN continues to set the standard in cybersecurity. For more information, visit www.humansecurity.com