Brother Industries is a Japanese multinational company that operates a wide range of businesses such as printers and industrial equipment. As part of their vision for the future, the group decided to embrace digital transformation (DX) in three particular areas: Business DX to provide high-level services using IoT, Operational DX to build a sustainable supply chain, and constructing Infrastructure DX to create reform in business processes and data utilization.

Through digital transformation, the company's products and services naturally developed an increased reliance on the Internet. This led to a rise in the risk of cyber attacks as well as an increase in the possibility of products negatively impacting their customers’ activities and businesses. These increased threats made the company realize that they needed new product development security guidelines that were practical and effective.

To address the increasing security risks associated with digitized products and services, Brother Industries sought external expertise. After evaluating a range of proposals, they chose NEC as their partner owing to NEC’s experience as a global manufacturer, as well as their professional expertise in providing practical solutions based on their accumulated knowhow.

NEC helped evaluate the existing guidelines and made recommendations to create new guidelines that covered the entire supply chain, including areas where Brother Industries hadn’t anticipated security risks such as production, storage, and transportation. NEC’s security specialist team also provided consultation across multiple verticals—from business administration to secure system implementation and operation.

First, we asked NEC to evaluate the existing guidelines, and received advice on additional points of view and specific measures. Based on that, we made additions and modifications. We received NEC’s review again, and continued to make revisions and updates through which we created the new guidelines. NEC’s attitude throughout the project was more like a member of Brother Industries than an outside expert.

Mr. Satoru Yanagi, Brother Professional Engineer, Software Technology Development Department, Development Center, Brother Industries, Ltd.

A drive towards greater sustainability by NEC

Resilient infrastructure
A shared responsibility framework helps keep products, including cloud, secure to achieve true sustainability

Reduced product wastage
Practical and robust security guidelines prevent breaches and ensure that an optimal number of products are manufactured and used.

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