

## **Company Overview:**

CrowdStrike was founded in 2011 and is headquartered in Sunnyvale, CA. CrowdStrike offers modules grouped into three major categories on its Falcon platform: Endpoint Security, Security & IT Operations, and Threat Intelligence. CrowdStrike's Falcon Platform is multi-tenant and cloud native, allowing its solutions to be integrated across a variety of different endpoints and deployed with relative ease.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ticker</u>	<u>Yield</u>	Growth	<u>D + G</u>
CrowdStrike Holdings, Inc. Class A	CRWD	0.00%	17.00%	17.00%

#### **Highlights:**

Results for the last quarter came in modestly above expectations, a solid result in our view given macro challenges seen out of others. Duration pressures continued, impacting billings but notably FCF remains solid given operating leverage. As execution remains solid, we remain confident in the setup for next quarter given the current momentum of the consolidation play and pipeline.

We view CrowdStrike as a prime land-and-expand model benefiting from SaaS delivery and ability to rapidly add more modules with no extra configuration or consulting needed. The long-term power of the install base should lead to strong net expansion rates as the company cross-sells additional seats (endpoints) and modules.

### **Bull Case:**

- Large Total Addressable Market ("TAM") CrowdStrike addresses a \$7+ billion market in corporate endpoint security, and also has products addressing endpoint adjacencies like vulnerability management. IDC Data suggests nearly half of the endpoint security market is controlled by the combination of Symantec, McAfee, and Trend Micro. However, the combination of these incumbent vendors has been bleeding market share to upstart companies, including CrowdStrike, in recent years. We see significant potential for growth in the EDR portion of the endpoint protection market and believe CrowdStrike is poised to be a beneficiary of this growth.
- **Strong Product Offering** We believe CrowdStrike delivers a strong endpoint offering, especially relative to legacy peers. We believe the efficacy of CrowdStrike's solution will help continue to drive customer adoption moving forward, helping CRWD to gain additional market share in the process.
- Cloud-Centric Solution We believe customers are becoming more focused on both the cloud in general and upon the impact that security has upon their devices. CrowdStrike is deployed from the cloud and features only a lightweight agent on a customer's endpoints. We see this technology as providing a significant benefit to customers, particularly in terms of endpoint performance. These benefits should help increase the adoption of CrowdStrike products.

# Bear Case:

- **Competition** CrowdStrike faces competition within the Endpoint Security market including incumbent vendors, network security vendors, and several pure play next-generation vendors, most of whom are private. These incumbent and network security vendors may have more resources at hand to develop competing products and larger install bases of whom they can sell to. Incumbent vendors include Symantec, McAfee, Trend Micro, Kaspersky Labs and several others. Network security vendors include Palo Alto, Fortinet, FireEye, Cisco, and Check Point.
- Risk Entering into Adjacent Markets We believe CrowdStrike faces risks from entering into adjacent markets of
  Endpoint Security that may also be highly competitive and/or contain incumbent vendors that have a significant market
  share.
- **Pricing/ASP Risks** The Next-Gen Endpoint security market is highly competitive with lowering barriers to entry that may limit CrowdStrike's ability to charge a price premium over traditional AV solutions. CrowdStrike will need to continue to invest in its technology and incorporate add-on solutions in order to maintain pricing power.

### Overview:

We believe that CrowdStrike is positioned to gain share in the Endpoint Protection Platform market and expand into other areas of security over time with its scalable cloud-native, next-generation endpoint platform. We favor CrowdStrike's best-in-class subscription growth and net retention rates and expect the company's Software as a Service (SaaS) model and new offerings to deliver sustainable high growth as the company invests to gain market share.



Past performance is not indicative of future results. This information is for illustrative purposes only. Investing involves risk including the potential loss of principal. This material is not financial advice or an offer to sell any product. The actual characteristics with respect to any particular client account will vary based on a number of factors including but not limited to: (i) the size of the account; (ii) investment restrictions applicable to the account, if any; and (iii) market exigencies at the time of investment. Aptus Capital Advisors, Inc. reserves the right to modify its current investment strategies and techniques based on changing market dynamics or client needs. Forward looking statements cannot be guaranteed. This is not a recommendation to buy or sell a particular security. There is no assurance that any securities discussed herein will remain in an account's portfolio at the time you receive this report or that securities sold have not been repurchased. The securities discussed may not represent an account's entire portfolio and in the aggregate may represent only a small percentage of an account's portfolio holdings. It should not be assumed that any of the securities transactions, holdings or sectors discussed were or will prove to be profitable, or that the investment recommendations or decisions we make in the future will be profitable or will equal the investment performance of the securities discussed herein. A complete list of holdings is available upon request. Information was obtained from third party sources which we believe to be reliable but are not guaranteed as to their accuracy or completeness.

This commentary offers generalized research, not personalized investment advice. It is for informational purposes only and does not constitute a complete description of our investment services or performance. Nothing in this commentary should be interpreted to state or imply that past results are an indication of future investment returns. All investments involve risk and unless otherwise stated, are not guaranteed. Be sure to consult with an investment & tax professional before implementing any investment strategy. Investing involves risk. Principal loss is possible.

This content or when a page is marked "Advisor Use Only" or "For Institutional Use", the content is only intended for financial advisors, consultants, or existing and prospective institutional investors of Aptus. These materials have not been written or approved for a retail audience or use in mind and should not be distributed to retail investors. Any distribution to retail investors by a registered investment adviser may violate the new Marketing Rule under the Investment Advisers Act. If you choose to utilize or cite material we recommend the citation, be presented in context, with similar footnotes in the material and appropriate sourcing to Aptus and/or any other author or source references. This is notwithstanding any considerations or customizations with regards to your operations, based on your own compliance process, and compliance review with the marketing rule effective November 4, 2022.

Advisory services are offered through Aptus Capital Advisors, LLC, a Registered Investment Advisor registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Registration does not imply a certain level or skill or training. More information about the advisor, its investment strategies and objectives, is included in the firm's Form ADV Part 2, which can be obtained, at no charge, by calling (251) 517-7198. Aptus Capital Advisors, LLC is headquartered in Fairhope, Alabama. ACA-2401-7.