CASE STUDY



Credit reporting agency protects over 400 million creditors

As a requirement for a new project with Visa, one of the oldest credit agencies in the U.S. needed to protect sensitive credit card numbers in order to be compliant in a Payment Card Industry (PCI) environment.

The data of this credit reporting agency, which gathers and maintains information on over 400 million credit holders worldwide, is highly regulated by state and federal regulations like the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act (FACTA), and the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, which requires financial institutions to safeguard sensitive data. It also must comply with the data security requirements of organizations with which it does business.

Objectives

- Secure the personally identifiable information (PII) of over 400 million consumers and roughly 180 billion credit card numbers.
- Satisfy requirements for the Visa project by moving as many elements of their environment "out of scope" from a PCI compliance perspective.
- Provide centralized oversight and administration of secure data across the entire enterprise.
- Build the framework for future analytics projects involving sensitive data.

Challenges

- The existing environment was too cost prohibitive to render PCI compliancy.
- A tokenization solution needed to be able to generate about 300 million tokens per minute; an internally developed tokenization infrastructure did not satisfy performance requirements.



Key Highlights

IndustryCredit Reporting

Challenge

Secure the PII of over 400 million consumers and enable new project initiatives involving sensitive credit card data by bringing environments out of PCI scope to satisfy security, compliance and performance requirements.

Solution

Deployed Protegrity *Privacy Protect* with vaultless tokenization for fine-grained protection of sensitive PCI and PII data.

Impact

Satisfied compliance and performance requirements while leveraging enterprise-ready security for existing and new projects.

Solution

The agency chose the Protegrity Privacy Protect solution with its patented vaultless tokenization technology because they determined that was the best way to protect sensitive credit card data and would allow the agency to take infrastructure out of the scope of PCI compliance.

Rather than encrypting data, tokenization replaces credit card numbers with random data of the same type and length. Because there is no mathematical relationship to the original numbers, tokenized data is considered replaced or removed, and therefore secure. Tokenized data is exempt from the scope of PCI compliance.

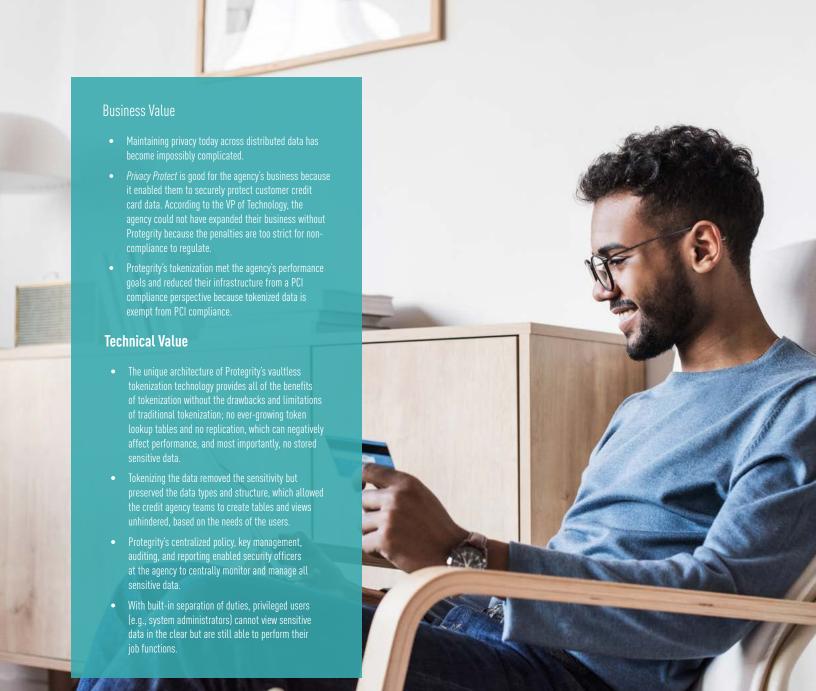
Initially, the credit agency attempted to build a tokenization infrastructure in-house, but it soon became clear that it would not satisfy performance requirements. The agency looked at products from several vendors, but only Protegrity could meet their requirements to securely generate about 300 million tokens per minute.

The Protegrity Privacy Protect solution, with its rapid tokenization, included an Application Protector and Enterprise Security Administrator for centralized oversight and administration of secure data across the entire enterprise.

Impact

Utilizing Protegrity's enterprise-ready vaultless tokenization solution, the credit agency was able to satisfy PCI compliance for the Visa project and dramatically reduced the complexity and performance impact of protecting sensitive data. It also enabled them to support future analytics projects involving sensitive data using Apache Hadoop, a framework for using a network of computers to store and process data.

It has become a huge success, and we have satisfied all the security, regulatory, and contractual requirements we have, said the agency's VP of Technology



Why Protegrity?

For more than two decades, Protegrity, a global leader in data security, has protected the sensitive data of the largest brands in the world, including four of the world's 15 largest banks and three of the world's leading multinational companies.

Protegrity provides the only platform that lets enterprises decide which data should be classified as sensitive and allows them to control how they safeguard that data, enabling the bank to securely and compliantly leverage external cloud data analytics.

With Protegrity, this international bank has unrestricted enterprise access to all generally available data security technology, both now and in the future, including advisory services and 24 x 7 support.