

Digital entertainment media company

How a Small Company Quickly and Easily Achieved PCI Compliance

Simple and Quick PCI Compliance

A well-known digital entertainment media company runs a small mail subscription business on the Internet that supplies a large catalog of digital entertainment media to their customers. Their systems are mature, but they are simple and reliable. While Voltage Security® is well known for doing large scale implementations, often in very complex environments, it also allows smaller and simpler systems to rapidly achieve compliance. For this digital entertainment company, the Voltage SecureData solution was adopted without changes to their main customer service application with integration performed by a single IT consultant in a single day.

The central problem that the company faced was that they were out of compliance with PCI DSS requirements. Their cardholder data was not protected. They understood that, even as a smaller business, they would be subject to fines in the event of a security breach compromising credit card numbers. They needed an effective data protection solution that would be easy to implement and not disrupt their current operations.

Their primary application was a very stable system written in COBOL and running on a Linux platform. They decided to utilize the Voltage SecureData command line interface. This required a very simple integration with the COBOL language, and the volume of traffic was low enough that the command line interface was more than adequate for their needs. Their most-used application supports their call center staff. Because the Voltage Format-Preserving Encryption (FPE) technology in the Voltage SecureData solution, no changes were required to their application. With Voltage SecureData, the application received appropriately-masked credit card data in the original format. Agents could still verify the last 4 digits of the card number, without being able to see the other digits.

The simplicity of the Voltage solution also delivered performance advantages. Not only were encryption and decryption cycles minimized, but character set conversion issues were automatically handled when sourcing data from the mainframes. The organization's Extract, Transform, and Load (ETL) processes did not have to be modified, and their load times were maintained, since data was already encrypted at the point of capture by the applications. In some applications, the fact that the data was preserved and transported in protected form meant that SSL was no longer required on the transit links. This alone brought tremendous savings to the company, on SSL cards that would otherwise have been required in their mainframes.

Highlights

- PCI compliance is required of all companies that handle credit cards
- Existing applications can be accommodated with minimal change
- Voltage SecureData integrates quickly – in a single day by a single consultant

How It Was Implemented

The biggest challenge to adoption was convincing corporate management. While management recognized the need to eventually become PCI compliant, they were skeptical that a security solution could be implemented without adding complexity and disrupting operations. Their IT consultant had considered other products but had a preference for Voltage SecureData based on what he had learned about the product. Voltage Stateless Key Management, with no key database to manage, and the use of Format-Preserving Encryption offered especially compelling benefits. The consultant was able to convince the digital entertainment company's management to perform a proof of concept test. The test was successful, and paved the way for full project go-ahead. After that, the cutover to the live operation only took one additional day of work by the consultant.

Companies that handle credit card transactions – regardless of their size – need a solution for PCI compliance, or risk paying substantial fines. Voltage SecureData combines simplicity in operation, ease of integration, and flexible choices of interfaces, to allow it to fit quickly and economically into virtually any environment, of any size. The sophistication and performance of Voltage's interfaces, and the ease-of-management delivered by Voltage Stateless Key Management, combine to provide immediate, comprehensive data protection, significantly reducing risk of data breach while keeping long-term costs low.

“Now we have almost forgotten that we have Voltage SecureData. It just keeps running with zero maintenance.”

- IT Manager

ABOUT VOLTAGE SECURITY

Voltage Security®, Inc. is the leading data protection provider, delivering secure, scalable, and proven data-centric encryption and key management solutions, enabling our customers to effectively combat new and emerging security threats. Leveraging breakthrough encryption technologies, our powerful data protection solutions allow any company to seamlessly secure all types of sensitive corporate and customer information, wherever it resides, while efficiently meeting regulatory compliance and privacy requirements.

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