



STEALTH
CONTENT STORE



SECURITY, SCALABILITY, EASE OF INSTALLATION, SEAMLESSNESS

A Big Four audit, tax and advisory firm

This solution was provided for one of the Big Four audit, tax and advisory firms. The firm employs 152,000 people and has three lines of services: audit, tax, and advisory. Its advisory services are further divided into three service groups – Management Consulting, Risk Consulting, and Transactions & Restructuring. In order to share very sensitive Information with its customers and further improve the collaboration workflow, the firm decided to develop an application for this specific purpose. SharePoint was chosen as the collaboration and workflow platform as SharePoint was already in use at the firm. It hired a third party application developer and hosting company to develop the application. Information security that met stringent audit and regulatory compliance and scalability were defined as the key requirements for the infrastructure. As the intent was to host the application, ease of installation and operation were secondary requirements. The final solution and infrastructure would also need to pass two comprehensive audits.

The Customer Challenges and/or Requirements

The firm hired a third party to develop an application in SharePoint, which would ensure effective and secure collaboration between the audit firm and its customers. The company had stringent requirements regarding security, regulatory compliance and scalability because highly sensitive information would be exchanged and stored using the application. The application would be used globally. The environment would be audited twice by external auditors before going live to ensure regulatory compliance. An initial roll-out to 5000 knowledge workers was planned in a relative short period of time followed by a broader roll out, hence seamless scalability of the environment to tens of thousands of users was of great importance.

The Stealth Solution

The Stealth Content Store, with in-line encryption capability, ensures all data is encrypted with defense grade encryption at the SharePoint application layer (at the Web Front End level). This means that data is encrypted before it moves to any storage environment, whether it be in-house or in a hosted cloud environment. So-called “man in the middle” attacks at the infrastructure and information transport level are not possible. The external storage cannot be compromised either as it contains only encrypted Binary Large Objects (BloB’s). BloB’s are thirteen letter/numbers codes. File names are not visible to outsiders only the BloB, i.e. letter/number codes, which are encrypted with a file level, AES 256 key. As the solution was to be hosted in a cloud environment, these features were of utmost importance. The software was installed and fully operational within weeks. Once the new Stealth Content Store was installed, no further maintenance, besides standard upgrades, was required. The Stealth Content Store can scale seamlessly to hundreds of terabytes and even petabytes and hundreds of thousands of users, allowing for uninterrupted growth of the firm’s SharePoint environment.

The Benefits Achieved

All data is now encrypted with a file level, AES256 encryption key at the Web Front End level in SharePoint. Both audits passed with excellent results. The Stealth Content Store deployment has allowed the audit firm to deploy cost-effective object storage for over 90% of the data (unstructured data). This has resulted in a 30% cost reduction compared to traditional SQL/SAN-based SharePoint environments. The environment also scaled seamlessly both from a data volume as well as from a user count point of view.



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