Leading Consultancy Gains Eyes in the Sky
Secures its cloud with Imperva Skyfence
True visibility into the cloud

Like many large enterprises, an Imperva customer who offers consulting, technology and software solutions to the Fortune 1000, is moving to the cloud model for delivery of applications to its clients and employees. In fact, from a cost-saving perspective, the sooner the transition, the better. However, given the company’s roster of high-profile financial and insurance clients, airtight security and compliance are imperative. IT needs full visibility and control into cloud apps as well as compliance with stringent financial and HIPAA requirements. “It’s very critical to protect what’s being put out there,” explains the company’s Director of Risk Management and Cyber Security. “We can’t stop hackers from attempting attacks, so we need an effective defense.”

This protection must embrace a variety of use cases. As well as providing custom solutions to clients and partners, the company has authorized use of third-party SaaS apps like Workday and ServiceNow. Strong protection is also a prerequisite for migrating the company’s internal IT to the cloud. IT needs a real-time window into how, when, and where employees access cloud applications, including unsanctioned ones—the infamous “Shadow IT.” Technicians must also control access from a proliferation of unmanaged employee devices. In short, the company needed a cloud security solution to span the full range of current and future requirements.

Challenges
• Visibility and protection for a sensitive client-facing custom app running on Microsoft Azure
• Full compliance with regulatory mandates such as SOX and HIPAA
• A single solution to safeguard both in-house (customer-facing) and third-party (employee-facing) cloud apps

Imperva Solution
Imperva Skyfence Cloud Gateway

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DIRECTOR OF RISK MANAGEMENT AND CYBER SECURITY
Phase 1: Securing a Custom App on Microsoft Azure

The company's immediate need was to protect a custom solution running on Microsoft Azure—a business and political risk assessment app serving large financial clients with even larger institutional customers of their own. The scenario demanded nothing less than the best possible security and compliance: gaps or lapses could result in seven-figure losses, lawsuits, and most critically, a meltdown of hard-won client trust.

Topping the company's short list was Imperva Skyfence Cloud Gateway—the only cloud access security broker offering data and user visibility, access control, custom security policies, and full auditing capabilities—all easily layered on top of their in-house applications without having to change any underlying code or impact the user experience.

With no margin for error and management pressing for a rapid launch, many security vendors quickly fell by the wayside. After a thorough evaluation, the company chose Skyfence for its unmatched depth and breadth of protection. “Skyfence starts with true visibility into the cloud. None of the other products we reviewed came close,” said the Director.

Fastest Deployment with the Deepest Protection

The company was pleased to find that right out of the box, comprehensive controls and policies were baked in to Skyfence to address industry regulations (PCI, DSS, SOX, HIPAA). The solution also came with a flexible choice of deployment options, plus a team of Imperva specialists who quickly learned the custom app and mapped application actions and data types for granular protection. No changes to the application were required, which considerably shortened the company’s time to market.

To further enhance its protection, the company harnessed the unique Skyfence ability to configure custom security policies. Profile behavior, anomaly detection, and specific devices were defined down to granular detail. Skyfence then automatically enforced these controls—exposing outliers, delivering warnings and two-factor authentication challenges, or blocking access outright based on mitigation rules set by the company.
Phase 2: Full-Scale Cloud Migration

The ease and speed of Skyfence deployment align perfectly with the company’s long-term strategy to fast-track its migration from data center to cloud. “As we’re moving more towards the cloud, we found that Skyfence was the only solution that could address our security needs for internally developed and third-party applications swiftly,” explained the Director. Implementation has been especially rapid for popular applications like Salesforce.com since Imperva had already done the security mapping work for those, saving deployment time and ensuring against gaps in protection.

Going forward, the company plans to take advantage of another Skyfence benefit: seamless integration with Imperva SecureSphere—rated by Gartner as the leading web application firewall—to protect against app-centric attacks. They also envision exporting Skyfence log activity to the Splunk analytics engine for further analysis and correlation.

All in all, the company is effusive about its cloud security gateway choice. In the words of its Director, “Imperva Skyfence is our eyes in the cloud to help us identify and control exactly what is happening in our cloud applications.”

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