Republic Bank & Trust Protects Customer Data
Overview

Republic Bank & Trust Company, headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, has 44 banking centers and roughly 1,000 associates stretching from Ohio to Florida. With about $4 billion in assets, the company offers a broad range of banking services to personal, small business and commercial clients. As a major financial institution, it operates within a strict regulatory environment and must protect against an array of security threats.

After Republic Bank identified structured data as a top source of risk, it chose Imperva SecureSphere Data Activity Monitoring and Database Firewall to protect and control access to its databases, ensure compliance, and monitor and track database activity. The company was able to deploy the Imperva solution and place all its production databases under management in just one month.

Republic Bank relies on Imperva to prevent outside attacks from ever reaching sensitive data, and to ensure compliance with PCI, SOX, and the Graham-Leach-Bliley Act. Thanks to the low management overhead for SecureSphere, the company achieved a high return on investment (ROI) and low total cost of ownership (TCO)—and still had resources available to address additional areas of concern.

Business Problem

Risk management is a vital subject for financial institutions and other organizations with sensitive data. Security officers, executive management and the board of directors at Republic Bank focus on operational, functional, legal, financial and reputational risks. Vulnerabilities associated with any of these categories can have a significant impact on the health of the business—from major fines due to regulatory noncompliance to declining revenue caused by loss of trust.

As part of a broad risk mitigation strategy, Republic Bank engaged in a process to identify vulnerabilities and weaknesses with the largest potential business impact. One of the top areas that required attention was structured data. Since nearly every database within the company brought together sensitive data within a single location, unauthorized access to just one database could result in a huge financial loss. The company needed a comprehensive solution to control database access, protect data, ensure compliance, and monitor and track activity.

With so many other critical responsibilities, the information security team at Republic Bank needed to make efficient use of all its resources and bandwidth. The team required a solution with low management overhead. This meant an agile solution that could be implemented quickly, without excessive administrator input, configuration or manual customization. It also meant a solution that could sustain itself over a period of time without a lot of ongoing overhead. The team also wanted world-class support both for deployment and ongoing operations.
Republic Bank followed several steps to choose the best solution for their needs. The company identified security offerings from multiple vendors, gathered input from leading industry analysts, spoke with other financial institutions about their choices, and used a proof-of-concept process. Several key factors—including product functionality, support and ROI/TCO—led Republic Bank to choose Imperva SecureSphere Data Activity Monitoring and Database Firewall.

In-depth evaluation by Republic Bank found that Imperva uses best of breed technology such as behavioral analytics and self-learning to protect and control access to databases, reduce risks, ensure compliance, and monitor and track database activity. World-class deployment and operational support was another top attribute that clearly separated Imperva from its competitors. The company’s ROI and TCO objectives were addressed in large part through ease of management, including efficient utilization of security team resources and staff. For example, the automated profiling capability identified which users should have access to certain security levels without the need for manual configuration.

Republic Bank now relies on Imperva SecureSphere to prevent—in real time—outside attacks from ever reaching sensitive data. With world-class deployment and operational support from Imperva, Republic Bank was able to deploy the solution and place all its production databases under management in just one month. The company considers response time, time to resolution and system uptime best in class.

The ease of management provided by Imperva enables high ROI and low TCO and allows the security team to address additional areas of concern. After rolling out Imperva SecureSphere at Republic bank, Ross Bobenmoyer, VP of Information Security, said:

“At this point we consider the inherent risk for our structured data as low. This is great for me, great for the board. It’s a situation where we can look at the ROI, the TCO, and we can consider it a success. It’s also great because the ease of management for Imperva gives the information security team the opportunity to focus on other areas.”

ROSS BOBENMOYER, VP OF INFORMATION SECURITY, REPUBLIC BANK