University of Reading Simplifies PCI-DSS Compliance and Gains Visibility into Data at Risk with Rubrik's Polaris Sonar

University of Reading

INDUSTRY

Education

RESULTS

• Up and running in minutes

• Assist with PCI-DSS compliance without risking fines or dedicating multiple resources

• One solution for data protection and sensitive data discovery – no need to manage multiple solutions

THE CHALLENGE

• PCI-DSS compliance required too many resources and times which put us at risk of fines

• Manual, time-consuming approach to data discovery and classification

• Lack of visibility into where sensitive student and employee data resides and is overexposed

The University of Reading is one of the United Kingdom's leading research universities and has been in existence for more than 150 years. It ranked amongst the Top 250 universities in the world, according to the QS World University Rankings 2020. The university has a global presence – with Whiteknights and London Road campuses in Reading, Berkshire; Henley Business School at Greenlands campus in Henley-upon-Thames; Henley Business School (South Africa) in Johannesburg; and the University of Reading Malaysia in Iskandar.

Kevin Mortimer, Head of Operations in the Digital Technology Services Department, oversees a team of 23 people which supports over 17,000 students and more than 4000 staff. Better data governance is a key priority for the institution given increasing regulation and public scrutiny on data privacy, protecting student and employee PII information.

"Our students and staff trust us to keep their data safe and a clear sense of where this data resides is critical to safeguarding personally identifiable information (PII) and avoiding the negative reputational impact of a potential data breach," said Mortimer. "Rubrik's Polaris Sonar helps us automate sensitive data classification, such as credit card information and passport data, in order to better understand our overall risk posture. It also demonstrates how Rubrik repurposes our existing backup data to drive greater value to the business beyond data protection."

ASSISTING WITH COMPLIANCE WHILE FREEING UP RESOURCES FOR HIGHER VALUE-ADD WORK

Prior to Rubrik, University of Reading relied on manual processes to identify sensitive data discovery and classification. "This process required too many resources and too much time to prove PCI-DSS compliance. Thus, at times, the university was at risk of fines in order to free up those resources for more critical outcome-based work. Sonar provides a platform to assist with our PCI-DSS compliance efforts without risking fines or dedicating multiple teams. Since Sonar is continuously scanning our data, we now have more visibility into where PCI data, such as credit card numbers, is stored and if it's in authorized locations. This helps us better identify where we may have large volumes of financial data overexposed, understand the level of risk, and assign data ownership in order to begin putting in remediation plans in place," said Mortimer.

Additional benefits include:

• **One platform for data protection and sensitive data discovery**: "With Rubrik, we have a single product that continues to provide value beyond data protection. We love that we can leverage our existing backup data to assist with data classification and compliance instead of managing multiple

systems. Since Sonar is continuously monitoring our data in the background, we can reallocate our time for other important projects."

- **Identification of unauthorized repositories of financial data**: "We were able to identify a finance system that was incorrectly retaining credit card data to an unauthorized location albeit securely. As a result, we were able to begin redesigning the system."

- **Simple, fast setup and management**: "Like Rubrik's core CDM platform, Sonar is very easy to use and fast. The setup and drilling down into the results of the scan just take a couple of minutes. Today, if we have a problem to investigate, the process is much simpler than manually digging through information ourselves."

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