



How Varonis is Helping a U.S. Federal Credit Union Proactively Protect Sensitive User Data

CASE STUDY



“When you have to meet compliance regulations, gain visibility into your network, or protect your file shares, Active Directory and Office 365 from potential threats, Varonis is the all-in-one Swiss Army Knife you need.”



ABOUT THIS CASE STUDY:

Our client belongs to a respected U.S. federal credit union. We have happily accommodated their request to anonymize all names & places.

HIGHLIGHTS

CHALLENGES

- Meeting standard requirements of NCUA & PCI audits
- Viewing unstructured data access & cleaning up Active Directory groups
- Detecting potential problems and proactively preventing data breaches

SOLUTION

The most robust data security platform:

- **DatAdvantage** integrated with Directory Services, Exchange, OneDrive & SharePoint Online
- **Data Classification Engine** for Windows, OneDrive & SharePoint Online
- **DatAlert** to detect potential malware or internal data leaks

RESULTS

- Clear audit trails that make compliance audits easy
 - 24/7 threat detection and preventative safeguards
 - Peace of mind that all sensitive data is stored securely
-

Challenges

PROTECTING CARDHOLDER DATA & REMAINING COMPLIANT WITH NCUA AND PCI REGULATIONS

Any organization that cares about its clients takes pains to protect sensitive user information from potential threats. This is especially true of U.S. federal credit unions, which have to undergo rigorous compliance audits every year.

We spoke with an IT Security Administrator (who wished to remain anonymous) to find out how important cybersecurity is to these financial institutions.

“

“Compliance is very important to us. We get audited every year by the NCUA [National Credit Union Administration]. This coming year, we’ll also be going through a PCI [Payment Card Industry] audit.”

”

Protecting cardholder information and other sensitive data is essential for organizations like this for passing audits, like the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS), and avoiding regulatory penalties.

The credit union was also preparing to roll out OneDrive and SharePoint Online. With this change, they needed assurances that they could control and have full visibility on the data being shared.

The security admin we interviewed understood all of this, and created the request for proposal that introduced Varonis to their credit union.

“

“How can you protect cardholder data when you don’t know where it is? You can’t. We needed a way to view our unstructured data, clean up our Active Directory groups and folder structures, and help us detect potential threats.”

”

With so much at stake, they researched as many top-tier solutions as they could before making a decision. They asked Varonis to demo their product on three separate occasions before they were convinced that it was the perfect solution for them.

“

“Every time we saw a demo, we wanted the product more and more. And, if I’m honest, it was hard to even find competitors that could match what Varonis could do.”

”

“

“How can you protect cardholder data when you don’t know where it is? You can’t.”

Solution

AN INTUITIVE WAY TO DETECT POTENTIAL THREATS, LOCK DOWN SENSITIVE DATA & GAIN MORE VISIBILITY

Varonis quickly transformed how the credit union could to protect cardholder data, while boosting efficiency and effectiveness.

“

“Varonis is an all-in-one cybersecurity platform. We use it to protect Active Directory, network shares, and Office 365. Varonis classifies our sensitive data, shows us where it’s at-risk, and alerts us to any abnormal activity.”

“Being able to view all of these features from my Varonis console and easily make changes to our directory structure or add or remove permissions has been a huge advantage.”

”

Once the credit union implemented the platform, Varonis helped the customer by building a series of reports that highlighted potential risks. These included:

- ④ Weekly User Behavior Analytics (UBA) alerts to review unusual (and potentially harmful) user behavior.
- ④ Domain Admin reports to see who has elevated privileges and make sure nothing was wrongfully added or removed.
- ④ Inactive user reports help them clean-up stale and risky user accounts.
- ④ OneDrive reports to monitor the sharing of sensitive information with external people.



“

“One of the things we do to remain PCI compliant is scan OneDrive for sensitive data like cardholder information or social security numbers. We don’t want to extend our PCI environment to the cloud, so Varonis helps us ensure that there’s no sensitive data being stored there.”

”

The credit union also has other safeguards in place, such as an audit trail to see who has accessed each file and ransomware alerts. But, thankfully, they’ve never had a major security breach.

And the security admin knows that even though the credit union was pretty clean from a reporting standpoint, these reports address questions they were previously unable to answer—information they’ll be glad to have when it comes to proving regulatory compliance.

“

“I feel so much relief knowing that we have this data ahead of time, and that we’ll have the upper hand if we never need to stop an inside threat or a malicious attack. We wouldn’t have been able to get any of this information without Varonis.”

”

“

“Varonis is an all-in-one cybersecurity platform. We use it to protect Active Directory, network shares, and Office 365. Varonis classifies our sensitive data, shows us where it’s at-risk, and alerts us to abnormal activity.”

Results

PROACTIVE REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Varonis has become ubiquitous to this credit union's data protection strategy. Now, the security admin sleeps easier knowing that their financial institution has a crystal clear audit trail.

“

“Not knowing exactly where all of your users' credit card data and sensitive social security numbers are kept in your network—that has to make you nervous. With Varonis, we're informed, and that gives me a profound sense of security.”

”

Plus, when it comes to compliance, Varonis has equipped the credit union with everything it needs to prove that they have all necessary safeguards in place—and that they take data security seriously.

“

“Varonis helps us find all of our PCI data and monitor everything from sensitive folder permissions changes to changes to critical groups like Domain Admins. It helps tremendously in knowing who has access to what and which data is being shared.”

”

And even now, years after they made the initial decision to purchase the Varonis Data Security Platform, this credit union is confident that they have the best solution on the market.



“

“When you have to meet compliance regulations, gain visibility into your network, or protect your file shares, Active Directory, and Office 365 from potential threats, Varonis is the all-in-one Swiss Army Knife you need. I don't know of any other solution that can do everything Varonis does.”

”

“

“With Varonis, we're informed, and that gives me a profound sense of security.”



**Finally, you can stop wondering if
your vulnerable data is safe.**

When you need data protection, threat detection and response,
or help proving regulatory compliance, you need Varonis.

[REQUEST A DEMO](#)