Banking & Finance Institute Secures Mainframe Communications

Customer Background

Industry: Financial services
Size: 10k+ employees
Region: Australia
Number of LPARs: 15+

Many banks are using IBM's mainframe as their core operating system to retain control over security, transaction efficiency, and data transmission. Even though new technologies, like big data and faster networks, are attempting to be the game changer, re-platforming would be a costly, disruptive, and risky path. Additionally, the reliability and secure nature make mainframe the best system for routine and time-critical operations.

Hence, one of the biggest Australian banks and financial service providers decided to upgrade its solution, render its File Transfer Protocol (FTP), and become SFTP-secure (Secure File Transfer Protocol). Their aim was to send sensitive financial information within the mainframe architecture.

Challenge

Security is a non-negotiable issue for the bank. While the IBM mainframe hosts multiple z/OS systems, it needs to keep its data-in-transit encrypted and secure during credit card usage, management of investment capital as well as ATM functions. Moreover, the new server must be capable of automatic daily transmission of huge amounts of files - the bank cannot afford any system downtime. A customer unable to check their account balance or withdraw money from an ATM will, potentially, change banks.

Solution

The bank decided to choose Tectia® SSH Server for IBM z/OS solution for securing file transfers, for several reasons. The feature of complying with FIPS-certified cryptography regulations and PKI support with X.509 certificates enabled Tectia z/OS to automatically encrypt any transparent data-in-transit, including user ID and password. Further, there was no downtime during installation, providing a reliable and simple solution to encrypt FTP to the required SFTP, under mainframe.

If IBM Crypto Express Card (CEX) is installed, the Tectia z/OS can direct or off-load cipher functions to the co-processors in CEX via ICSF, helping to reduce CPU usage, accelerating of cryptographic operations within the hardware environment, and increase energy efficiencies. It also meets internal and external compliance requirements including PCI DSS, SOX, HIPAA, FIPS, FISMA, and many others. Thus, it is suitable for organizations of all types and sizes.

Results

The firewall-friendly architecture in Tectia z/OS takes a further step to empower the server. Whereas FTP requires two firewall ports, the SFTP feature in Tectia/OS needs only one, offering a cost-saving infrastructure in the long run.

When it comes to business continuity and maintenance, Tectia z/OS offers platform support and updates for all its servers running on Unix, Linux, or Windows. That's why it is trusted by 4/5 of the world's top banks and 40% of Fortune 500 companies.

The whole deployment of Tectia z/OS took only a few weeks, and it works perfectly and seamlessly with mainframe without the need for a system shutdown or start-up. As the customer commented:

> **"We have looked at different solutions on the market, but we found Tectia z/OS remains the simplest and most direct answer to our problems."**

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Get to know Tectia SSH Server for IBM z/OS!

Want to find out more about how we safeguard mission-critical data in transit for leading organizations around the world?
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