CASE STUDY

Revolutionary Data Security

Sovos develops SaaS based applications to deliver tax compliance solutions. These applications rely on large and diverse data sets. The sensitive data contains private information that can't be safely shared outside the customer organization.

The team creates massive mock data to mimic customers' data schema when developing software. This data creation requires access to the live customer data to generate a de-identified version, a process that takes a significant time investment. This labor-intensive procedure is essential for every unique customer.

Business Profile

Sovos is a global company offering technology-driven financial services and meeting the regulatory compliance needs of modern businesses. With more than 2,400 employees working in 14+ countries, they support tens of thousands of customers (including half the Fortune 500) that operate in more than 70 countries.

Tax authorities around the globe are embracing digitization to speed revenue collection, reduce fraud, and close tax gaps. Sovos provides financial software and services that help businesses meet the compliance and regulatory demands that require increased visibility and control into business processes, even down to the transaction level.

Sovos is purpose-built for the modern tax ecosystem – an evolving, complex landscape in which companies benefit from integrating complete, connected, and continuous tax compliance software into their digital financial core.

Challenge

Sovos develops SaaS based applications to deliver tax compliance solutions. These applications rely on large and diverse data sets. The sensitive data contains private information that can't be safely shared outside the customer organization.

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"Sotero provides the encryption layer between databases and applications that engineers can leverage without compromising data or lower segmented systems in charge that are missing the required levels of security."

~ Amit Venugopal, VP, CIO at Sovos

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Although the data set created is valid for a point in time for that individual customer, as with all successful organizations, the customer evolves and grows, and thus the data changes. The skew between the actual customer data and the mock set grows during development. This requires a periodic and time-consuming refresh of the simulated data. Each of these updates creates a delay as development pauses until the completion of newly generated replica data.

Even with the periodically generated mock data, many other challenges still existed in ensuring the accuracy of the final product when presented on the live data. This negatively impacted the customer’s business image, creating the false image of insufficient testing when changes in the underlying data were the root cause.

**Results**

Since the integration and implementation of The Sotero Data Security platform, Sovos has seen improvements in its product delivery, including:

- Realized substantial cost savings in development.
- Reduced development downtime as developers no longer have to wait on data to be generated. They are working directly with live data.
- Eliminated unexpected test case failures on delivery to the customer.
- Improved overall customer satisfaction on product deliveries as customers no longer feel like they serve as the development team’s final QA.

**Secure third-party data management that means business**

Data stays encrypted at all times, enabling you to share data with downstream systems and third parties without ever putting security or privacy at risk.
Solution

Sotero transformed the process by creating efficiencies and accelerated Sovos’ ability to develop and deliver products to the customer. This improved Sovos’ customer satisfaction and speeds up the development timelines.

The Sotero Data Security platform allows Sovos developers to securely connect to their customer data sets without repeatedly investing time in de-identification.

Instead, Sovos fully controls what fields are visible to developers in plain text. The Sotero Data Security platform empowers the customer to specify which fields remain fully encrypted and which are masked, preserving format and size without leaking sensitive data.

Using The Sotero Data Security platform, developers can use live data sets to validate test cases directly. With this approach, there is no longer a deviation between what the customer and developer use to test. This reduces delays and leads to improved success rates for the final product.

The Sotero Data Security platform resulted in development time savings for the client and improved final product quality. Developers no longer experience delays while new data sets are generated, leading to faster development times and increased customer satisfaction.

Using live data directly allows QA to test software more meaningfully. This decreases bugs, reduces code revisions, and produces a higher-quality product.

About Sotero

The Sotero Data Security Platform provides a centralized way to encrypt and protect data through its entire lifecycle – at rest, in transit, and in use. With real-time detection and automated quarantine of malicious access, Sotero also prevents active threats, giving you 360-degree data security without disrupting the user experience. With our lightning-fast encryption and our point and click set-up, Sotero’s solution is easy to deploy and manage, ensuring you are protected in a matter of days, not weeks or months.