

Helping a Legacy Bank Achieve PCI Compliance in a Record Six Months



Snapshot

Client Industry: Banking

Country: Bangladesh

Challenge: PCI DSS Compliance with legacy infrastructure

Solution: Segmented approach and usage of relevant security tools

Benefits: PCI DSS Compliance achieved in record time of 6 months

Greater Digitization = Increased Security Challenges

With the increase in digital transactions, we're also witnessing an increase in cyber threats. Banks need to be cognizant of this since they regularly collect sensitive data from customers. In most cases, it is mandatory for banks to have their information systems audited periodically.

Given that most banks have been operational for several years, most of them run on legacy infrastructure. As technology evolves and online fraud become more prevalent, there's growing awareness among these trustworthy entities on the need to be compliant with security standards such as PCI DSS.

Yet, in Bangladesh, only three out of the 59 scheduled banks were certified to be compliant with PCI DSS. With a quest to reform the country's banking sector and gain a better security posture, the Central Bank of Bangladesh issued an order mandating PCI DSS compliance by the end of December 2019.

To meet this requirement, one of the most reputed second-generation banks in the country decided to apply for PCI DSS certification. One important challenge was to create awareness within the bank on the importance of PCI DSS implementation in their organization. Secondly, the bank needed to start the process from scratch since it did not have access to the necessary tools required to comply with PCI DSS requirements.

The bank approached SISA to seek guidance on getting started with the PCI DSS compliance process.

Investing in the Right Tools

Since educating the team was an important component of the compliance exercise, the SISA team initially conducted a Certified Payment Card Industry Security Implementer (CPI SI) in-house workshop for the bank executives. During this workshop, the SISA team detailed out the importance and benefits of PCI DSS implementation and provided a broad overview of the compliance process.

Based on this understanding, the bank's top management and CISO were very keen to secure their information systems in the best possible way. The team sought SISA's assistance in achieving this.

SISA assessed the bank's business critical data spread across its environment, using segmentation to reduce the scope of the exercise. The bank invested in the necessary tools so as to prevent any delays in the certification process.

Throughout the certification process, multiple milestone reviews were conducted to engage the bank's top management and kept them updated. This helped them monitor progress more easily. The client supported and coordinated with the QSA throughout the certification process. All this helped them achieve the PCI DSS certification in record time.

“ We are glad that we put out trust in the SISA team. With their support and active involvement throughout the compliance journey, we were able to complete the certification process and achieve compliance in record time.

– CISO, Leading bank in Bangladesh

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Security Posture as a Positive Differentiator

The bank was successful enough to comply with the PCI DSS requirements. This gave the organization an opportunity to be one of the top-most banks in the country, as well as enabled its global presence.

Besides, the certification has helped the bank comply with the Central Bank's directive and achieve a better security posture in a period of just six months.

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