Stay Ready for PCI-DSS with Polaris Sonar

Reduce Sensitive Data Exposure.
Automate Consistent Processes with Policy-driven Simplicity

Credit card fraud costs the payment card industry billions of dollars per year. The Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI-DSS) was created to provide organizations that deal with credit cards with a standardized set of guidelines, controls, and best practices to defend against the threat. Failure to adhere to the PCI-DSS can result in repeated monthly penalties, increased transaction fees, and loss of the ability to accept credit card payments.

To comply with PCI-DSS, organizations must establish a policy, build and maintain a secure environment, and routinely undergo compliance audits. As well-meaning as PCI-DSS compliance is intended to be, auditing and maintaining compliance is time consuming. Implementing integrity controls can be technically challenging and auditing data can be quite daunting. Rubrik makes this simple. Polaris Sonar, a software application delivered as a service, automates visibility into where regulated content is stored with data classification. It uses machine learning to automatically discover and classify data, without any impact to production environments. The Rubrik Cloud Data Management (CDM) platform already protects the data, Polaris Sonar gives visibility into that data.

MEET POLARIS SONAR: CLASSIFICATION TO HELP WITH PCI-DSS

To begin using Polaris Sonar for PCI-DSS automation, all a Rubrik customer has to do is turn it on and select a predefined template or customize one. Sonar begins to scan the Rubrik protected data in the background and flags matches for non-compliant data. Since production workloads are already being protected, the data to be analyzed exists within the Rubrik repository. Sonar sweeps through protected environments searching for defined patterns whether the data is on-premises, in a remote office, or in the cloud. This means no agents to install, no heavy scans on production workloads, and most importantly no heavy lifting for the IT staff. Sonar delivers automation of policy management and very fast time to value, and it keeps running in the background without constant intervention, upgrades, or hardware refreshes.

Streamline Scanning and Monitoring

PCI-DSS uses a layered approach of policy and control. Establishing a policy is always the first step in any information security effort, and enforcing and monitoring it is integral. Requirement 3.4, for instance, calls for an examination of removable media or secondary copies (like backup data) to be performed in order to validate that the encryption controls on the primary copies have been implemented. This is precisely how Polaris Sonar works. Rather than scanning production systems, Sonar examines the data in the Rubrik platform to identify and highlight patterns that match the defined policy.

1 https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/pci_security/why_security_matters
USE CASES

Enhance Visibility/Review Anywhere

Anywhere that cardholder data is stored is a location that must be secured, monitored, and reviewed, whether the data is on-premises or in the cloud. Stored data that is readable is a violation of DSS 3.4 through 3.4.1, but unless you are looking, you won’t know about it. Sonar finds misplaced data or data that is copied temporarily to an accessible location and then forgotten about. If data is stored on servers or locations outside of defined secure zones, then Sonar will alert on policy deviations automatically based on the policies set.

Protect Against Blind Spots

Nothing invites an audit as quickly as a breach disclosure. This unexpected audit then introduces an unknown risk that something completely unrelated might be found. Investigators may very well clear the organization of any wrongdoing on the part of the breach, but then go on to find several previously unknown areas that do result in fines. The risk from unknown threats is reduced with Polaris Sonar since it scans in the background, analyzes the data and can find problem areas before they turn into trouble.

Continuously Assess the Security of Cardholder Data

Running vulnerability scans of systems is covered under DSS 11.2, but what if data is accidentally exposed or left unencrypted. Encryption is required under PCI-DSS 3.5, and if source data is left unmasked and unencrypted in a defined zone then Sonar will find it automatically.

Remediate from Ransomware Attacks

DSS requirements 5 and 6 relate to vulnerability management and the need to protect against malware and ransomware. Data protected by Rubrik is stored in an immutable format which means you never have to worry about ransomware accessing and encrypting backups. Polaris Radar detects anomalous behavior and provides a workflow recovery that takes the guesswork out of remediating an attack. The Rubrik solutions for data governance enables continuous protection and rapid one-click recovery of workloads to get the facility back on its feet, meeting the requirement to have an adequate response to mitigate the effects of an attack in the event of an incident.

Reduce Disruption from Audits

Let’s face it, audits are productivity killers. Time spent preparing for an audit is a pure waste of the IT team’s effort. Weeks worth of resources spent scanning and preparing would be better spent on something more productive. When the QSA arrives, they will expect that everything is prepared and in place. Documented procedures for security as well as breach response are expected. Having Sonar background scan results available to serve as supporting evidence for the QSA demonstrates technical support for those policies.

Empower the Infrastructure & Operations Team

With Rubrik Polaris, your I&O team has the tools to regularly check for policy violations and remediate them on a more regular basis without the intrusiveness of scanning production systems and without the need for indexing. Rather than reactionary fire drills, they can set and forget, and if they need to introduce a new search pattern to the scans, it is easy to do.

Breach Response Plan in Place

Having a response plan for breaches is a requirement and being able to demonstrate and document that no negligence occurred is not simply a nice to have. Having the locations where cardholder data is stored and being prepared to run searches to investigate other locations will be part of the overall team effort during response. With Rubrik’s ability to search data managed by Rubrik CDM, you can quickly identify repositories of unencrypted cardholder data.

Get Ready for PCI-DSS v4.0

The PCI-DSS evolves too. Comments from the industry are currently being incorporated and PCI-DSS v4.0 is anticipated in late 2020. Maintaining compliance is an ongoing process and having oversight for the entire environment is a key part of this effort. The 12 core requirements are not expected to fundamentally change. The objective of this updated DSS release will be to promote security as a continuous process and to add greater flexibility and support of additional methodologies to achieve security. Sonar will be ready and so will you.
WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS ARE SAYING

“Data classification tasks that would have previously required expensive 3rd party auditors and multiple full-time engineers can now be completely automated. We drove over 90% operational savings by eliminating manual scripting and spreadsheet management, reducing time spent to complete hundreds of search queries from two weeks to just 1 hour,” said Brandon Morris, Systems Administrator at City of Sioux Falls. “Not to mention, Sonar provides a platform to continuously monitor our sensitive data for high risk incidents, such as overexposed credit card numbers and social security numbers, seamlessly on our existing backup data without impacting production.”

“Sonar allows us to easily prove PCI-DSS compliance without risking fines, dedicating multiple resources and freeing up our employees for outcome-based value-add work,” said Kevin Mortimer, Infrastructure Services Manager at University of Reading. “We can now automate sensitive data classification, such as credit card information, passport data, and other PII, to better understand our overall risk posture, assign data ownership, and comply with access requests, such as UK's Freedom of Information Act. As a university, any compromise of student data can lead to damage to our students’ well-being and our organizations’ reputation.”

To learn more about Polaris Sonar and how it can help your organization automate their data governance requirements, please visit our website or contact your local sales person.