CLOUDENTITY™

CASE STUDY

Standard Insurance | 2018

SUMMARY

Founded in 1906, The Standard is a leading provider of financial products and services, including group and individual disability insurance, group life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance, group dental and vision insurance, absence management services, retirement plans products and services and individual annuities. Covering over 6 million customers in 49 of the US states, the District of Columbia and the US Territories of Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. In the state of New York, it operates the Standard Life Insurance Company of New York. For more information about The Standard, visit http://www.standard.com/.

CHALLENGE

When the Standard Life Insurance Company of New York (SIC) took a fresh look at how to engage its customers, the assessment concluded that the decade old infrastructure would require a rapid transition to a cloud ready environment. Changing the infrastructure introduced many challenges, and perhaps the most important was to not impact the hundreds of integrated applications in production. An emphasis would not only need to be placed on security, but the New York Department of Financial Services (NYDFS) cybersecurity audit requirements as well.

This daunting task included securely providing user data sourced from multiple directories across multiple domains and how to securely provide that data to any application, anywhere. All while incorporating complex business logic and services to enable seamless, fast hybrid cloud deployments. To complicate things further, the project required enhanced security and seamless integration with existing identity and access management (IAM) platforms providing single sign-on (SSO) across 70 plus on-premises applications for over one million users.

The modernization project was going to require a significant development effort. The application development teams at SIC needed to move from waterfall into DevOps as part of their cloud preparation. An approach that allowed development teams to use a distributed authentication and authorization platform that offered baked-in security was the ideal solution. They needed a way to decouple identity and security requirements from the business logic, creating an easily repeatable process that allowed the development team to act quickly and deploy, upgrade, manage the solution rapidly without being tied to monolithic platforms.

SOLUTION

After a thorough evaluation, SIC chose Cloudentity to address the development requirement to quickly and easily decouple identity and security from mainline business application development. Cloudentity deploys as a micro-perimeter, a micro-API gateway and secure prebuilt / pretested microservices all activated through simple RESTful APIs, to compliment and protect the mainline business application. The use of a micro-perimeter (a core component of the Cloudentity Security Mesh) easily provided the security of traditional perimeter security solutions adapted for today's microservices requirements.

To meet the strict NYDFS cybersecurity audit requirements, the Cloudentity Security Mesh creates a comprehensive digitally signed audit trail for every step of the transaction. Starting at authentication for any user/service/thing to authorization across services to data store access, Cloudentity provides a unique transaction ID, tamper proof audit and verified claims. This is available for any applications, microservices, APIs, containers or server-less functions providing frictionless fulfillment of governance and compliance requirements.

Adding in the Cloudentity TrUST Authorization Engine provided real time transactional risk analysis for the services, users and things protected. The TrUST engine assesses and evaluates risk on a transactional basis and provides dynamic authorization flows to mitigate the risk.

Cloudentity's flexible architecture allowed SIC to further improve risk-based authentication / authorization by leveraging their existing security appliance alerts into the Cloudentity Security Mesh. Specifically, the Cloudentity micro-perimeter and TrUST Engine were integrated with the Imperva SecureSphere Web Application Firewall (WAF), creating a seamless security layer protecting against the OWASP top 10 threats for North/South and East/West traffic. This integration is invaluable since the micro-perimeter offloads responsibility for identity federation, strong authentication, dynamic authorization, parameter inspection, transaction throttling and TLS key management for every application it protects. Once a security platform component is integrated with Cloudentity, its services are available for every protected application in any environment.

To ensure the solution integrated with existing IAM platforms, SIC utilized the Cloudentity Token Exchange Service. This enabled SIC to move towards a microservices architecture without replacing their current Identity infrastructure.

BENEFITS

SIC developers realized significant improvements in agility and velocity by decoupling security and compliance from their application business logic. The Cloudentity micro-perimeter handled these requirements for them. Its ability to be deployed, updated and configured with each application as a singular package offloaded a tremendous responsibility from developers. It removed the need to code and test logic to authenticate/authorize services and maintain user context in every microservice.

Additionally, the Cloudentity micro-perimeter isolated dependencies on centralized components such as a centralized API gateway and LDAP platforms. In doing so, it facilitated an efficient service mesh architecture and eliminated costly external network hops back to central sources that slowed the application flow.

SIC was able to utilize their existing security and compliance infrastructure during the transition to a cloud-first environment to minimize disruption and contain costs. SIC even enhanced their security posture with Cloudentity real time risk assessment.

Existing users did not need to establish new identities but instead could use the identities and user flows from the current Identity infrastructure because of the Cloudentity Token Exchange Service.

Cloudentity complemented the continuous integration and continuous deployment (CI/CD) flow needed for SIC's DevOps process. In essence, security became part of the CI/CD flow, not something bolted on at the last moment. DevOps is now SecDevOps.

Ultimately, decoupling the transactional security requirements needed to provide authentication, authorization, and data security enabled SIC application development teams to focus on their core business logic and services.

Brian Moore, the SIC Architect said, "We've easily saved over 20% from our original production estimates by utilizing Cloudentity". The strong authentication of any user on any device enabled best of breed adaptive authorization for both web and mobile apps. Moore went on to say, "One of the most seamless, most incredibly smooth enhanced security enrollment experiences with multifactor authentication…I've ever seen. Absolutely AWESOME!".

ABOUT CLOUDENTITY™

Cloudentity is a leader in providing a real-time self-healing identity and security layer to cloud-native applications by leveraging Identity and Fraud Management and was recently named in Gartner's 2017 "Cool Vendor" report. We unleash organizations to deliver Secure Digital Transformation by delivering dynamic real-time authentication, authorization and management across users, services, and things. Utilizing Identity at the heart of everything we do, we drastically reduce application-owners time to market by offloading cybersecurity and identity requirements allowing developers to focus on game changing business applications in a comprehensive SecDevOps manner.

Cloudentity is trusted by dozens of customers in Finance, Insurance, Government, Retail, and Healthcare, including leading companies like Blue Cross-Blue Shield, Reliance Industries, PG&E, Crowdstrike, T Rowe Price and Standard Insurance Corp.

Contact the Cloudentity team today for a demo or download a trial from website ***www.cloudentity.com***

CLOUDENTITY™

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