



Driving Excellence in Compliance and Security: **Securing National Switch Operator**



This case study details the PCI DSS certification journey for a national switch, a critical application managed by the central bank, which routes all domestic Off-Us transactions.

Summary

Customer	: National Switch Operator
Industry	: Financial Services (Central Banking)
Project Duration	: 1 Year
Location	: Countrywide
Objective	: Achieve PCI DSS Certification for the National Switch

Introduction

This case study details the PCI DSS certification journey for a national switch, a critical application managed by the central bank, which routes all domestic Off-Us transactions. This certification was crucial for securing the financial transactions across the country and ensuring the integrity and confidentiality of sensitive payment data.



Background

The national switch facilitates the routing of all domestic transactions from various banks within the country to their respective issuing banks for authentication and authorization. The project aimed to certify the national switch under PCI DSS, covering people, processes, and technology. The complexity of the environment necessitated a comprehensive and detailed approach to achieve compliance.

Challenges



Network Segmentation: Identifying and segmenting the entire network to isolate sensitive data.



Critical Asset Identification: Determining the critical assets that handle sensitive payment information.



End-to-End Risk Assessment: Conducting a thorough risk assessment across all systems and processes.



Policy Development: Creating robust policies and procedures aligned with PCI DSS requirements.

Approach

The certification process was divided into three phases: assessment, remediation support, and final certification.

Phase 1: Assessment



Scope Definition

Identified the scope of the assessment, including all systems and processes involved in handling payment card data.



Initial Gap Analysis

Conducted a comprehensive gap analysis to identify areas of non-compliance.



Risk Assessment

Performed an in-depth risk assessment to evaluate potential threats and vulnerabilities.



Documentation Review

Reviewed existing policies, procedures, and technical documentation.

Phase 2: Remediation Support



Policy and Procedure Development

Developed and updated policies and procedures to meet PCI DSS standards.



Network Segmentation

Implemented network segmentation to isolate sensitive data environments.



Technical Controls Implementation:

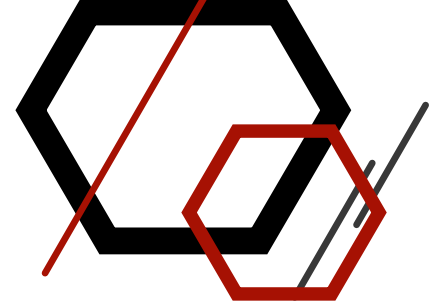
Deployed technical controls such as encryption, access controls, and intrusion detection systems.



Training and Awareness

Conducted training sessions for staff to ensure awareness and adherence to PCI DSS requirements.

Phase 3: Certification



Internal Audit

Conducted internal audits to verify compliance with PCI DSS requirements.



Final Assessment

Engaged with an external Qualified Security Assessor (QSA) to perform the final assessment and validate compliance.



Certification

Upon successful completion of the assessment, the national switch achieved PCI DSS certification.



Results



Compliance Achieved: The national switch successfully attained PCI DSS certification, enhancing its security posture.



Risk Mitigation: Significant reduction in security risks through the implementation of robust controls and procedures.



Improved Security Awareness: Increased awareness and understanding of security best practices among staff.

Conclusion

The PCI DSS certification for the national switch was a critical milestone in securing the nation’s financial infrastructure. The collaborative effort between Ampcus Cyber and the central bank’s team ensured that all requirements were met, and the highest standards of security were implemented. This certification not only fortified the national switch’s security but also set a benchmark for other financial institutions within the region.



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