A Global Financial Institution Regaining Control of Trusted Access
The customer’s brand is global and associates with trust and prosperity. The corporate risk management team is tasked with protecting the brand from being tarnished by undesired attention. Internal audits play an important role in this, and the control and visibility of trusted access of internal and external privileged users is essential. The management and control of trusted access with Secure Shell (SSH) was brought to spotlight when an internal audit revealed that developers were able to use SSH keys to bypass existing privileged access management solutions. Regaining control over SSH keys became a priority.

An internal security audit of the retail and investment IT revealed serious shortcomings in privileged access management – due to the unmanaged state of SSH keys, the developers were able to self-provision their own SSH access and bypass the PAM solutions altogether. As the SSH keys never expire, self-provisioned accesses to production servers have accumulated and proliferated over the years. These unmanaged SSH key-based accesses were quickly assessed to require remediation.

The corporate IT environment bears all the typical characteristics of the market – large server volumes, heterogeneous platforms, wide software and vendor diversity. These characteristics formulate the requirements for a strict and demanding SSH key management project – the discovery, monitoring, remediation, and management must be achieved in-line with existing operations and processes. The rollout of risk management solutions must be risk-free and non-disruptive.

Achieving compliance by remediation of audit findings

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The solution for controlling and managing trusted access must be able to cover the maximum environmental diversity with minimal disruption to existing processes and operations. Due to the complex technical and organizational structures, the selected vendor was required to contribute subject matter expertise, consultation, and assistance in the planning, deployment, and rollout of the selected solution.

SSH.COM is the original inventor of the SSH protocol that provides the secure trusted access to the entire server populace of the bank. When the bank was evaluating their options for SSH key management they also considered an in-house software development project. However, the sheer complexity of the effort as well as the identified shortcomings in subject matter expertise quickly turned the attention to the world’s leading source of SSH expertise, SSH.COM.

Universal SSH Key Manager handles the entire trusted access lifecycle at the bank – it discovers the trust relationships, monitors the SSH key usage, remediates the access to conform to policy, and manages the SSH-based trusted access centrally. Universal SSH Key Manager allowed the bank to regain control of trusted access in their critical infrastructure.

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