SlimTrader Protects Africa's Personal Data

Alliance Key Manager for
Amazon Web Services Case Study

SlimTrader says, "AKM for AWS is a Godsend. Finally we can do encryption and key management properly."

SlimTrader seeks to help businesses sell their goods and services through a multi-channel digital presence. It does this through MoBiashara: its hosted and managed Ecommerce and Mcommerce platform for businesses big and small. Its first-mover advantage and ability to rapidly onboard partners results in a quick solution for its partners in sub-saharan Africa.

SlimTrader's MoBiashara platform serves organizations with annual sales of a hundred to hundreds of millions of dollars. It has offices in the US and West Africa. Its success is predicated on the success of our partners.

SlimTrader's hosted and managed Ecommerce and Mcommerce platform MoBiashara translates to "More Business" in Swahili, and for good reason. It helps businesses sell goods and services through a multi-channel digital presence both online and via mobile devices.

Since SlimTrader's inception, it has helped businesses across multiple sectors sell their goods and services via the following solutions:

· MoBiashara for Airlines
· MoBiashara for Hotels
· MoBiashara for Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) Companies
· MoBiashara for Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

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"Our main challenge is that we're cloud based, so we can't use an HSM because we don't have a physical IT infrastructure. We want to do it the right way, and do it in the cloud. With Alliance Key Manager for AWS I can deploy encryption key management the way I want, and I don't have to ask anyone in Amazon for help."

- Martin Pagel, CTO of SlimTrader

Solutions from Townsend Security help SlimTrader keep data secure every day.

www.townsendsecurity.com

The Challenge

Implement strong encryption and encryption key management in the AWS cloud, at a lower cost and with minimal impact to performance.

There are limited encryption key management solutions available today for AWS users. The other AWS solutions available are usually too expensive for most mid-sized enterprise organizations and give users insufficient control of encryption keys. SlimTrader needed fast, reliable encryption and key management at a lower cost to protect their customers' personal data, meet compliance requirements, and help protect themselves from a data breach.

SlimTrader easily protects encryption keys for encrypted data stored in MySQL in AWS. They also protect website data with Key Connection for Drupal and AKM for AWS. Key Connection is the first available plugin for the encrypt module that enables remote encryption key management.

The Solution

Cost effective NIST FIPS 140-2 compliant encryption key management for Amazon Web Services from Townsend Security.

SlimTrader chose Townsend Security for an affordable, FIPS 140-2 compliant, and independent solution. Townsend Security puts the control of encryption keys in SlimTrader's hands thereby eliminating the fear of losing a key in a cloud environment. The other AWS key management solution is six times more expensive and requires extra acquired encryption technology.

SlimTrader chose AWS for scalability and affordability. Therefore they also needed a scalable and affordable encryption key management solution. With Alliance Key Manager for AWS, SlimTrader is taking advantage of Townsend Security's no end-point license fee model that will allow them to grow without burdening their budget.

SlimTrader also found Alliance Key Manager for AWS easy to deploy and more practical than a hardened HSM solution, since they don't have a traditional data center. "The ease of firing up an AKM cloud instance and having control over it

appeals to me," said Pagel, "And I don't have the limitations of needing to install a physical box."

Important Certifications

Was NIST certification important to SlimTrader?

SlimTrader works with several banks and government agencies in Africa who consider PCI compliance important. "When we manage data on their behalf, we need to manage it securely," says SlimTrader CTO Martin Pagel.

The Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 140-2 is a federal standard for encryption key management hardware security module (HSM). Alliance Key Manager for AWS uses the same FIPS 140-2 compliant encryption key management used in our HSMs. One of the most demanding standards anywhere, only the most committed security vendors can pass FIPS tests and achieve certification. Townsend uses FIPS 140-2 compliant key management in every key management solution.

The Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) is a National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) recommended encryption algorithm. Alliance Key Manager for AWS comes with onboard AES encryption capabilities so that you can securely encrypt data and meet compliance regulations with the keys never leaving the device.

Townsend Security

Townsend Security provides certified data encryption and encryption key management solutions to customers worldwide on platforms including AWS, Microsoft Azure, Microsoft SQL Server, Windows, Linux, UNIX, and IBM i. Alliance Key Manager is available as an HSM, Cloud HSM, VMware, and cloud instance, and can be deployed under perpetual and subscription pricing options.

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