

FINANCIAL SERVICES CASE STUDY

Protecting SMEs from Cyber Security threats since 2016.

Background

A financial services company was struggling with data protection compliance and ensuring sensitive client data was properly secured. Some key challenges they faced:

- Large amounts of client financial data that must be retained for 7 years under industry regulations. This included data spread across multiple systems and endpoints.
- Difficulty tracking where all client data resided, especially with remote workers copying files locally. An employee spent 3 weeks trying to compile all data on one client for a subject access request.
- Concern about substantial fines under the Data Protection Act and GDPR if client data was breached. Fines could be upwards of £8.7 million or 2% of global turnover.

At a Glance

Challenges

- Large amounts of data
- Difficulty locating data
- GDPR fines from ICO

Benefits

- Rapid deployment
- Ongoing encryption
- Continuous monitoring



**Kevin
Hawkins**

Director, H2

“Since 2016, H2 have worked with National and International SMEs to secure their data and provide ongoing Cyber Security support”

Solution

H2 suggested using the Actifile platform to automatically discover sensitive data across systems, encrypt it, and monitor data flows. Key capabilities:

- Automated discovery of personally identifiable information (PII) stored locally, on servers and in cloud apps used for collaboration. Quickly quantifies data risk exposure.
- Encrypts sensitive files to protect data regardless of where it resides across the hybrid work environment. Encryption causes minimal disruption to users.
- Continuously monitors movement of sensitive data to detect suspicious activity and data exfiltration risks. Detailed audit logs for forensics.
- Lightweight agents on endpoints ensure high adoption by employees. Cloud-based management minimizes ongoing admin workload.

Results

- Actifile deployed in less than 3 days without disrupting employees. Quickly discovered major data risk areas, specifically unprotected cloud storage instances.
- Identified and Encrypted over 80% of sensitive files, dramatically improving security posture. Remainder of files were tagged for remediation.
- Implementation of File movement monitoring enabled proactive alerts on suspicious data activities for further investigation. Addressed several risky IT uses.
- Automated subject access requests now possible with detailed data inventories. Access logs in Actifile's system. Report generation was reduced from weeks to minutes.
- With improved data protection controls now in place, the financial services company reduced their regulatory risk and business exposure substantially. Compliance process improvements also resulted.