

Protecting Member Data at Rest and in Motion

The vast majority of credit unions and their employees have the best interests of their members at heart, but with credit union operations now completely intertwined with the Internet it has become much more challenging to safeguard sensitive data. In their efforts to provide excellent customer service, for example, employees may be using unsecured e-mail to communicate with members where credit union account numbers, online usernames / passwords, or other personally identifiable information may be transmitted. In other instances, credit union employees may be copying sensitive data to laptop hard drives or USB drives to take work home, or even exposing very sensitive data through outbound webmail or "Web 2.0" applications such as social networking sites.

In most cases, these activities occur inadvertently, but in some instances there is malicious intent involved. Either way, unauthorized use of sensitive data poses a daunting security risk. Laptops or thumb drives can be lost or stolen and non-secure e-mail or instant messages can fall into malicious hands. Beyond employee activity, there are ever-growing threats from spyware and Trojan Horses, which are becoming more sophisticated and effective at cloaking their existence and their outbound communications... which are often filled with sensitive data.

Along with these fundamental security issues, misuse of sensitive data can also create legal problems for the credit union. This is particularly true in states such as Nevada, which have enacted strict privacy laws that can leave credit unions open to unlimited liabilities in the event of any kind of data loss or theft.

To prevent these occurrences, credit union IT managers must be able to know how and where sensitive data is being stored (data at rest) or used on the desktop (data in use) or sent over the network (data in motion), and then have the means to block or restrict activities that could transfer data to non-secure places. TrueDLP for Code Green Networks is a data loss prevention (DLP) solution that allows credit unions to identify and monitor the use of sensitive data, prevent unauthorized transfers, and encrypt e-mail.

Once installed, the TrueDLP appliance and endpoint agents work transparently and automatically, applying the credit union's security policies to data transfer operations, alerting end users and the IT staff when security policies are violated, and taking preventive action such as blocking transfers or encrypting data. Credit unions such as First Technology CU in Oregon and New Mexico Energy Credit Union in New Mexico have adopted TrueDLP because it is easy to install and manage, and because it provides a full complement of DLP features (including flexible data classification, continuous monitoring, built-in e-mail encryption, and full logging and reporting) at a fraction of the cost of other products.

True DLP cost-effectively scales from small credit unions (under 50 users) to the largest institutions, and we are proud that after an extensive review process, NAFCU has selected us as their exclusive partner for Data Loss Prevention solutions. TrueDLP takes the worry out of potential data loss simply, automatically, and cost-effectively.



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