

How Payment Processing Provider CeloPay Simplified AWS Security with AlienVault

AlienVault USM Anywhere helps CeloPay secure customer data and achieve PCI DSS compliance on AWS

CHALLENGE

Payment processing technology company CeloPay needed a PCI DSS-compliant solution to monitor security for its AWS-hosted SaaS offering. Manual log reviews were cumbersome, time-consuming, and susceptible to error, making it difficult to produce the required reports for compliance audits.

SOLUTION

AlienVault USM Anywhere provided many of the security controls required for PCI DSS in one integrated solution. Features include:

- “Out of the box” PCI DSS Audit Report templates
- Ability to pull Amazon CloudTrail logs into one place for reporting and alerting
- Easy to deploy: up and running within hours, not days

RESULTS

A complete overhaul of daily security monitoring tasks. Daily security reviews can be completed in minutes rather than hours, and CeloPay is alerted immediately to changes in critical security configuration settings and other potential security risks. Complete PCI DSS compliance reports can be generated with just a few clicks.

Industries that handle customer credit card information are no stranger to security breaches. In the hospitality industry alone, point-of-sale breaches are a major concern. In 2016, 96% of those breaches involved external attacks, and almost all were perpetrated by financially-motivated criminal organizations looking for compromised payment card data.* CeloPay, based in Alpharetta, GA, provides a web-based SaaS solution that helps customers collect, store, and process credit card payment information in a secure environment to help protect against security breaches and credit card data theft.

Founded in 2011, CeloPay allows customers to avoid the security risks of collecting credit card information via email or fax, providing a secure cloud-based environment for the collection, storage, and processing of credit card information. Built on AWS, CeloPay takes advantage of the comprehensive logging and reporting capabilities offered by AWS to track activity in their environment and detect security threats. However, as the company grew, CeloPay’s leaders realized that their manual log checking process was far too time-consuming to be sustainable over the long haul.

CeloPay needed a way to improve threat detection and compliance for its AWS environment that could scale to meet the needs of a growing customer base. Additionally, when CeloPay applied to become a PCI Level 1 Service Provider, company leaders knew they would need an easier, more reliable way to provide the necessary data and reports to prove PCI DSS compliance.

ALIENVAULT USM ANYWHERE: COMPLETE SECURITY MONITORING FOR AWS ENVIRONMENTS

AlienVault USM Anywhere, available in AWS Marketplace, provides the security controls required for AWS PCI DSS Compliance in a single easy-to-deploy solution. With built-in PCI DSS audit reporting templates and centralized AWS log management, USM Anywhere simplifies compliance readiness. After deploying USM Anywhere, CeloPay was able to streamline daily security reviews, simplify log management, reduce the amount of time needed to create audit reports, and identify potential security threats in near-real time.

CELOPAY’S ADVANTAGE: A SECURE, CONVENIENT SOLUTION FOR COLLECTING, STORING AND PROCESSING PAYMENT INFORMATION

- Request and receive payment information anytime, anywhere via a web-based solution
- Replaces cumbersome paper processes with a streamlined, secure solution
- PCI DSS Level 1 certified
- Scalable solution built on AWS



WHY CELOPAY CHOSE ALIENVAULT

"Having a tool like AlienVault completely transformed our process," says Jason Harper, CEO and founder of CeloPay. "AWS provides many wonderful sources of information, including native tools like Amazon CloudWatch. But manually parsing them wasn't working well for us. If there was a security incident, we'd find it during a security review the next day, for example. We didn't have the ability to parse logs in real time. We also go through audits as a PCI DSS Level 1 service provider. Generating reports was a very time-consuming process."

Harper's team chose AlienVault for several reasons – among them, an advantageous cost structure. "We're a very cost-conscious company," Harper says. "We looked at several solutions, some that were wildly expensive and out of our reach. AlienVault was very fair from a pricing perspective."

CeloPay also factored in the ease of deployment offered by AlienVault – the solution was, in Harper's words, "unbelievably simply to deploy." It took only about 90 minutes to be up and running, and because it is a SaaS platform, CeloPay doesn't have to worry about maintaining the instance or managing software upgrades – a plus for a small team with limited time

AlienVault's customer service and willingness to consider new features and options were final selling points for the CeloPay team. "From my first interaction with the company, I saw they were very customer-centric, much like CeloPay," says Harper. "I had thoughts and ideas about the product, and they were genuinely interested in what I had to say. Their accessibility really sealed the deal for me."

THE RESULTS

From a technical perspective, AlienVault USM Anywhere provided several key benefits, including:

- **Centralized log management.** Ability to pull in Amazon CloudTrail, Amazon S3, and other AWS logs into one place for reporting and alerting.
- **PCI DSS compliance.** Ability to produce audit reports in seconds – a vast improvement over CeloPay's previous process.
- **Full security visibility and intelligent alerting.** CeloPay is no longer reliant on manual log reviews to spot threats.

ALIENVAULT USM ANYWHERE, AVAILABLE IN AWS MARKETPLACE, HELPS YOU:

- Immediately discover new assets or misconfigurations in your cloud workloads
- Produce audit-ready reports for PCI DSS, HIPAA, and other compliance requirements
- Detect and alert on abnormal behavior (such as instances being spun up or down at odd times, a marker for attack activity)

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- Jason Harper
CEO and Founder, CeloPay

The engagement with AlienVault has provided multiple measurable benefits to CeloPay. Before using USM Anywhere, it could take 12 to 24 hours before CeloPay would be able to detect a security incident using their previous manual log-checking process. That lag time has been reduced to a matter of minutes with AlienVault's solution. Today, CeloPay is alerted immediately of changes to critical security configuration settings such as security groups. Finally, CeloPay was able to consolidate multiple security roles so that security monitoring today takes less than the time of one full-time employee to manage. This helps CeloPay to free up its development talent to focus on improving the CeloPay product for its own customers, without compromising security.

GET STARTED TODAY

Explore the AlienVault USM Anywhere [online demo](#), and sign up for your free 30-day trial in [AWS Marketplace](#).

ABOUT AWS

For 11 years, Amazon Web Services has been the world's most comprehensive and broadly adopted cloud platform. AWS offers over 90 fully featured services for compute, storage, databases, analytics, mobile, Internet of Things (IoT) and enterprise applications from 44 Availability Zones (AZs) across 16 geographic regions in the U.S., Australia, Brazil, China, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Singapore, and India. AWS services are trusted by more than a million active customers around the world – including the fastest growing startups, largest enterprises, and leading government agencies – to power their infrastructure, make them more agile, and lower costs. To learn more about AWS, visit <http://aws.amazon.com>.

ABOUT ALIENVAULT

AlienVault has simplified the way that organizations detect and respond to today's constantly evolving landscape of security threats. AlienVault Unified Security Management (USM) is a unique approach to security that combines essential security controls with the power of the AlienVault Open Threat Exchange (OTX), the world's largest crowd-sourced threat intelligence community. AlienVault, an AWS Advanced Technology Partner, makes effective and affordable threat detection accessible to the most resource-constrained IT teams. Learn more at www.alienvault.com.