CloudGuard Dome9 and Amazon Web Services
Case Study | Western Union



"As a security department, it's very important to have a quick, reliable, and current view of the configuration and control over the security settings of cloud accounts and assets. This enables us to automate controls and react quicker with fewer resources."

#### Ewald Wicher

Senior Manager Information Security, Western Union



## WESTERN UNION SCALES GLOBAL FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS WITH CLOUDGUARD DOME9 ON AWS

#### **ABOUT WESTERN UNION**

Western Union is a leader in global payment services, helping small businesses, corporations, and individuals in over 200 countries and territories execute money transfers. Its global platform is supported by a multi-channel network built on ever-evolving technology, trusted relationships, and global compliance capabilities.

Headquartered in Colorado, Western Union is focused on developing new ways to meet business and consumer needs through both retail channels and digital platforms such as WesternUnion.com and the Western Union Money Transfer mobile app. The company is also innovating through its WU Connect peer-to-peer platform, which integrates social media and messaging with global, cross-border money transfer services, using Western Union APIs.

## INFORMATION SECURITY CHALLENGE

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Almost all Western Union global payment services and business operations infrastructure resides within onpremises data centers. Western Union's Information Security team faces the challenge of securing existing on-premises infrastructure while simultaneously integrating a complementary strategy for new systems on the cloud.

In the coming years, the company plans to move more of its services to AWS as it adopts DevOps practices such as continuous integration/continuous deployment (CI/CD), automating development and testing processes, and active application monitoring. Western Union has embraced the DevOps mindset knowing it can help the company accelerate new business capabilities, optimize resources, and expand its international reach with agile support. The question that Western Union faced was how to move forward.



#### Extensive Global Network (2016 Data):

- 150 million customers served
- Operations in over 200 countries and territories
- Transactions in more than 130 currencies
- Services available through 100,000+ ATMs and kiosks worldwide
- \$80 billion in principal moved between customers

# THE SOLUTION: AWS AND CLOUDGUARD DOME9

In 2016, Western Union began exploring cloud Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) providers, seeking a solution that would enable them to move proactively onto the cloud. After conducting an in-depth review of various providers, Western Union chose Amazon Web Services (AWS).

To complement the security functionality provided by AWS, Western Union looked for an out-of-thebox solution that could provide automated security and compliance controls, as well as visibility into its infrastructure. Most importantly, the solution needed to seamlessly scale alongside its cloud workloads to accommodate the company's new agile development approach. Their choice was CloudGuard Dome9.

The company decided that all net-new Western Union applications, and applications facilitating new international transactions, would be deployed into production on AWS and integrated into CloudGuard Dome9. The first application deployed was a portal that provides a window into the operations of on-premises workloads. Months later, other IT operations-focused applications made their way to AWS.

## WHY CLOUDGUARD DOME9?

Western Union chose CloudGuard Dome9 primarily for its compliance engine, which delivers fast audits and security assessments via automated data aggregation and testing against standards. The Governance Specification Language (GSL), an intuitive compliance language, bridges the gap between the security engineers who write the compliance rules and the developers who implement them. With the Compliance Engine from CloudGuard Dome9, Western Union can measure the compliance of its environment against its own pre-determined security standards.

Western Union also chose CloudGuard Dome9 for its ease-of-use. CloudGuard Dome9's simple installation processes allowed Western Union's security engineers to implement the Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) solution by themselves, assigning roles for integration into CloudGuard Dome9. While CloudGuard Dome9 provides responsive support available to all customers, Western Union didn't feel they needed it for successful onboarding.

#### Ease-of-Use

- Simple deployment and onboarding of the CloudGuard Dome9 agentless SaaS solution
- Far more intuitive and efficient compared to manual operations and homegrown tools

#### Fast

- Onboarding multiple AWS accounts onto Dome9 took just 5 minutes
- What was once done by cumbersome scripts can be accomplished with Dome9very quickly

#### **Cost Efficient**

 Western Union has freed up staff time by using CloudGuard Dome9's automated features

#### **AWS Services in Use:**

- Approximately 500 Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2) instances, and continuously changing
- Over 100 Amazon Simple Storage Service (S3) and more than 5TB of data transfer volume per month
- Amazon EC2 Security Groups, Amazon S3 Access Control Lists, AWS Identity Access Management (IAM)

### **RESULTS: DOME 9 IN ACTION**

Before workloads go into production, Western Union's security operations team defines compliance requirements using AWS and CloudGuard Dome9 recommendations. A security engineer (embedded within the development team) then reviews the requirements and sends them along to developers to implement. Ongoing fixes are made by developers in response to CloudGuard Dome9's monitoring and security team recommendations.

3 Western Union Security engineers use CloudGuard Dome9 daily

20

Western Union Developers and other engineers **use** CloudGuard Dome9 **in a month** 

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Western Union's next step is to map out company plans for operational improvement to determine where AWS and the CloudGuard Dome9 security solution can fit in. Once a roadmap is in place, the company then hopes to:

- Add more Western Union applications into production on AWS
- Export data out of CloudGuard Dome9 and integrate it into the company's risk management solution to create a centralized view of additional application risks
- Implement regional lockdowns for additional accounts



## ABOUT CHECK POINT SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGIES LTD.

Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. (www.checkpoint.com) is a leading provider of cyber security solutions to governments and corporate enterprises globally. Its solutions protect customers from cyber-attacks with an industry leading catch rate of malware, ransomware and other types of attacks. Check Point offers a multilevel security architecture that defends enterprises' cloud, network and mobile device held information, plus the most comprehensive and intuitive one point of control security management system. Check Point protects over 100,000 organizations of all sizes.



## ABOUT AWS

For 10 years, Amazon Web Services has been the world's most comprehensive and broadly adopted cloud platform. AWS offers more than 90 fully featured services for compute, storage, databases, analytics, mobile, Internet of Things (IoT) and enterprise applications from 42 Availability Zones (AZs) across 16 geographic regions in the U.S., Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, India, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Singapore, and the UK. AWS services are trusted by millions of active customers around the world monthly --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 https://aws.amazon.com.

#### **CONTACT US**

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