



Oak Hill Advisors Case Study



Oak Hill Advisors is a leading independent investment firm specializing in leveraged loans, high yield bonds, structured products, distressed securities, and turnaround investments. With approximately \$30 billion of capital as of December 2016, Oak Hill Advisors (OHA) manages distressed funds, credit hedge funds, customized accounts, and other specialty credit funds. OHA invests on behalf of investors globally, including pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, insurance companies, foundations, endowments, fund of funds, and family offices.

OHA has more than 250 employees in five offices: New York City, Fort Worth, Los Angeles, London, and Sydney. OHA is a Registered Investment Adviser with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, and the firm's London-based affiliated investment adviser is authorized by the Financial Conduct Authority.

CLOUD PROVIDES A STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE

OHA takes a strategic approach to the cloud: "Cloud-based technologies are central to Oak Hill Advisors' technology strategy," says Sajawal Haider, CISO for Oak Hill Advisors. "They give us the flexibility and the right tools to compete in a fast-paced global marketplace." This strategic advantage extends into the business, and has also had a major positive impact in how IT services are delivered. "Probably the most significant change is the time that gotten back since we're no longer in the business of spinning up data centers. When you're not racking and stacking gear you get to engage the business more — and that has an impact that's almost immeasurable," says Haider.

SECURITY CHALLENGES — THE SAME AND DIFFERENT ALL AT ONCE

When it comes to cloud security, Haider believes that "the security challenges associated with cloud services are essentially equal when compared to traditional data centers, they're just different in scope and accountability." It's for this reason that OHA's team invests a lot of time in relationships with both end users and vendors. "Gone are the days when IT could take a binary approach to application vetting and approval. If the business is going to get a competitive advantage from a tool they've

PROFILE

INDUSTRY

Financial Services,
Investment Management

EMPLOYEES

250+

REGION

North America

CHALLENGES

- Discover all cloud services
- Keep control of PII data, even if it gets into the cloud
- Prevent high-risk users from accessing sensitive data
- Monitor usage and enforce policies in both managed and unmanaged devices

BENEFITS

- Ensure safe, compliant use of cloud services for all employees
- Protect sensitive data, including PII, across all services

SOLUTIONS

- Netskope Active Platform
- Netskope for Box
- Netskope Cloud DLP
- Netskope Encryption

"Gone are the days when IT could take a binary approach to application vetting and approval. If the business is going to get a competitive advantage from a tool they've sourced, it's our job to secure it."

Sajawal Haider | CISO, Oak Hill Advisors

sourced, it's our job to figure out how to secure it," says Haider, "and that often led to protracted negotiations with cloud service providers. We found we needed a way to scale both the gap analysis and holes found in each app's security. It was at this point that we went looking for, and found, Netskope."

DATA PROTECTION WHEN PACKETS AND CURRENCY ARE SYNONYMOUS

As an investment firm, the work happening in the cloud is often highly confidential. Everything from insider information to account details can traverse the cloud and find their way into cloud services. Context from the Netskope Active Platform allows OHA to isolate transactions requiring inspection and Netskope Cloud DLP is used to ensure that personally identifiable information (PII) doesn't end up in the unsanctioned apps in use at OHA. Further, Netskope is used to encrypt the most sensitive data in their sanctioned services.

MICROSOFT OFFICE 365 AND BOX — THE CLOUD SECURITY MANDATE-MAKERS

For OHA, Microsoft Office 365 and Box have led to the most significant changes. Whether it be email, document creation, or collaboration, these tools can have a significant impact on the time required to complete day-to-day tasks. "Box has enabled us to reduce the time it takes to complete certain tasks from days and hours down to seconds," says Haider, "and when you introduce that capability you must adapt how you think about security." Like many organizations, this has also led to a re-thinking about how OHA's IT and IT security departments are structured and how they operate.

OPERATIONALIZE CLOUD SECURITY

When you combine the rapid speed at which cloud can be deployed, the velocity of feature changes, and the relative ease of switching services, IT departments that haven't evolved are going to struggle. It's for this reason that OHA has taken an aggressive approach when it comes to operationalizing cloud security. "We were using a lot of cloud-based platforms and every one of them had a different security framework with different capabilities in them. The overhead associated with managing all of them was becoming unbearable," said Haider. "When we brought in Netskope, we were able to get one unified security control point and only needed to train the team on Netskope — this was truly transformational for our team. It would be unsustainable for us to go back to the old ways of managing these different services."

AN EVER-EVOLVING STRATEGY

Perhaps the biggest lesson OHA has for those earlier in their cloud security journey is that change is the only constant. "One of the biggest reasons we chose Netskope was for their ability to adapt to changes that happen so quickly in the cloud. It's not uncommon for an app vendor to push out code updates once or twice in a quarter. Netskope did a fantastic job building an architecture that's more resilient to these changes," said Haider. "That and their engineering team is the most forward-looking and responsive we've seen."



Netskope® is the leader in cloud security. Trusted by the world's largest companies, Netskope's cloud-scale security platform enables security professionals to understand risky activities, protect sensitive data, stop online threats, and respond to incidents in a way that fits how people work. Netskope — security evolved. Visit www.netskope.com to learn more.