

Oak Hill Advisors Improves Data Security and Centralizes Management



CLOUD PROVIDES A STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE

Oak Hill Advisors (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 we've 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 end users, application vendors, and cloud service providers including Amazon Web Services (AWS). "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 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 Netskope 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.

OPERATIONALIZING 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.

About Oak Hill



Oak Hill Advisors is a leading investment firm specializing in leveraged loans, high yield bonds, structured products, distressed securities, and turnaround investments.

Operating as a standalone business within T. Rowe Price, OHA has \$57 billion under management and invests on behalf of investors globally, including pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, insurance companies, foundations, endowments, fund of funds, and family offices.



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."

IMPROVING SECURITY POSTURE WITH INFORMATION SHARING

OHA uses Netskope Cloud Exchange to consume and distribute information that helps to improve situational context and threat remediation. For example, Cloud Exchange allows OHA to automate IOC sharing and ingest event streaming logs into their Splunk SIEM. A container-based solution that runs on AWS Fargate, Cloud Exchange provides powerful integration tools that help to improve security posture and reduce TCO by ingesting and sharing information with services such as AWS CloudTrail and Amazon GuardDuty.

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.

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."

About Netskope

Cloud transformation and work from anywhere have changed how security needs to work. Netskope sees and understands these changes and works with you to protect people and data anywhere they go, no matter what.

