



Federal Use Case

Department of Homeland Security



Homeland
Security



Introduction

DHS Agency creates single, secure, cloud-based data governance platform to make active, inactive and legacy application data available for FOIA, eDiscovery, and Business Intelligence needs while simultaneously meeting the June 2024 new records management requirements of M 19-21 and M 23-07.

Background

The Department of Homeland Security is tasked with performing application modernization and consolidation based on the updated Federal CIO strategy of “Cloud Smart” and realizing cost savings by closing the DHS DC2 data center.

Enablement of a unified archiving and data governance platform will allow the Agency to aggregate legacy and newly archived data required to meet government regulatory obligations, eDiscovery requirements and FOIA requests, while also ensuring that security and Zero-Trust features such as least-privileged access and detailed user audit trails are also implemented. The Agency is also looking to add additional value by having the platform built with open-source Cloud tools, stored in encrypted, non-proprietary formats,

and deployed in a dedicated Cloud environment to further reduce costs and ensure maximum control of the data under management. This approach will ensure compatibility with historical and current needs while securing a way forward to cost-effectively leverage business analytics and emerging technologies such as AI and ML.

As part of the Cloud Smart implementation process, the Agency is decommissioning critical applications such as Lotus Notes, backups, O365 (now M365), SharePoint, Exchange and the on-premises datacenter hosting these applications and many other legacy systems. Broad-based services would initially cover six component sub-agencies and more than 14 major migrations, and later expand to other DHS entities.

Objective

The Agency had several key objectives for the chosen solution:

- Support the collection, retention and management of ongoing active data in M365 needed to meet eDiscovery requirements
- Support existing and emerging NARA requirements, FOIA requests, and other eDiscovery obligations in a timely manner
- Leverage an existing Agency contract to provide the initial step of securely migrating their legacy archiving data

The Agency also had a requirement of compliant data migration, without data loss,

into the secure DHS Cloud archive. Auditable data fidelity and multi-level access permissions were critical, as well as the need to prepare the data for future tools like BI, AI and ML.

To meet these goals, the agency created a program to review the records to determine their status as temporary or permanent records. They then designed a migration program to meet current and upcoming regulatory compliance rules and records management needs for all records, under the Capstone approach, while not disrupting any of the daily operations of thousands of users.

Challenge

Archive360, the SI partner, and the Agency worked together to design a massively scalable solution to manage and transform multiple petabytes of regulated data within their existing legacy environment, consisting of a wide variety of structured and unstructured data, PST files, and data from other active production systems.

The Agency had relied on their legacy architecture, as well as on on-premises third-party email archives (Veritas Enterprise Vault,

EDBs/Exchange data and non-Exchange email data and files) for many years and required a complete, secure and scalable data migration and onboarding solution that could address all of their requirements.

The Agency also required that the new system meet all of their Cloud security requirements to ensure that an Agency ATO would be granted, while having no impact on existing users during the migration period of the project.

Solution

The Agency chose Archive360's award-winning product, **Archive2Azure (A2Z)**. A2Z is a native, cloud-managed archiving and data governance platform built with a Zero-Trust, cloud first approach, leveraging native cloud components within Microsoft's Azure Government Cloud. A2Z uses Archive360's advanced Fast Collect data migration capabilities to migrate and onboard multi-petabytes of data in a highly scalable, secure and compliant manner, with more than 280 different data file types supported.

With Archive360's A2Z platform, the SI partner and Agency were able to meet the Agency's IT, governance and business requirements and

now have a solution capable of onboarding and managing a wide variety of disparate data types (i.e., email, collaboration tools, voice, video, text messages, files, legacy applications and databases).

Additionally, it reduced the costs and risk associated with cloud migrations and managing petabytes of data in the Cloud, preserving least-privileged and policy-controlled access, with fully auditable data retention and disposition. The entire solution was deployed within the existing DHS tenant, creating a highly secure, infinitely scalable, valuable return on investment under the Department control.

Results

The newly implemented Archive360 Unified Data Governance solution not only achieved the Agency's ATO easily, it also formed the foundation for implementing key aspects of both the Agency's legal eDiscovery process and Records Information Management (RIM) policies, and set the stage for a broader departmental deployment.

Archive360's A2Z platform solution facilitates the onboarding of an ever-expanding set of data feeds from other critical applications in the future. Using the A2Z platform, the Agency will be able to onboard and manage a wide variety of disparate data types, simplifying the

cost and risk associated with data migrations, while also allowing the Agency to reduce overall operational costs.

The Agency now has a mature, modernized data governance system in a secured environment (which they can control 100%) with advanced capabilities for regulatory compliance and eDiscovery. Additionally, the Agency will now be able to meet the M23-07 deadlines and requirements, FOIA requests and any new eDiscovery and legal hold requirements, as well as the data infrastructure foundation to drive value from the data leveraging BI, AI and ML tools.

About Archive360

Archive360 is the unified data governance company transforming how organizations identify, collect, manage and act on their data. Businesses and government agencies worldwide rely on the security, scalability and scope of our cloud-native platform to address their increasing data governance obligations across growing volumes of disparate data. With Archive360, our customers are eliminating

data silos, securing data access, increasing data insights, while reducing cost and risk.

Archive360 is a global organization that delivers its solutions both directly and through a worldwide network of partners. Archive360 is a Microsoft Cloud Solution Provider, and the Archive2Azure™ solution is Microsoft Azure Certified. To learn more, please visit www.archive360.com.

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