

A Court of Auditors in Brazil Ensures Confidential Data Protection, Compliance, and Agility with Thales Technology

The Court of Auditors of the State of Mato Grosso (TCE-MT) is the external public auditor responsible for looking after public property and supervising the use of resources. Any person or organization who uses public money, assets or securities originating from the State or from the 141 Municipalities must answer to the Court.

The primary function of the body is to monitor the legality, legitimacy and economy of public spending. In other words, the TCE-MT supervises the correct use of public funds so that fees and taxes collected are returned to society in quality services such as health, education and security. The TCE-MT also carries out important work in prevention and in the education of public administrators, providing training courses and courses in creating material, manuals and technical publications.

The Challenge

In its function of supervising and auditing public accounts, the Court has access to detailed data on the accounts of 870 public entities in the state. This data includes confidential financial data on all transactions by government entities, as well as sensitive information on public employees and any person or organization working with government agencies. All this data is regulated by legislation such as Brazil's General Data Protection Law (LGPD), the Law on Access to Information (LAI) and other specific regulations.

Furthermore, the investigative and audit work of the Court is highly confidential. Ongoing investigations must be kept absolutely confidential until they are concluded. Early publication may put the work of the Court at risk and hinder the progress and conclusion of important audits.

The advance of digitized procedures and the modernization of IT systems has made the entity faster and more efficient. But avoiding the risks of cyber-attacks and the leakage of classified information has become one of the Court's IT department top priorities. Therefore, the Court began an internal technical survey that launched a tender to consider various aspects of Information Security, focusing on cryptography and anonymity of information as well as access control. This technical survey started with an internal project called "Information Security Governance".

The Solution

At the end of the contest, which included extensive proofs-of-concept (PoCs), the winning company was Neotel Segurança Digital. Neotel analyzed and proposed the best technology available on the market to meet the needs of the tender. It soon became clear that Thales cryptography, tokenization and access management solutions provided the best protection, usability and flexibility for protecting sensitive data.

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Transparent encryption and key management

Through Neotel, an experienced channel partner for sales and specialized support with the highest levels of certification, Thales provided a set of solutions to protect the Court's data. CipherTrust Transparent Encryption, with centralized key management, was implemented to protect sensitive data in various IT systems. Thales' transparent encryption allowed the Court to encrypt confidential information in files and servers and to set granular policies to access data securely, minimizing the risk of external threats and allowing for the auditing of access to sensitive data.

Tokenization with dynamic data masking

To protect structured data in databases, Thales implemented CipherTrust Tokenization with dynamic data masking. This solution permits the pseudonymization of sensitive information in databases whilst maintaining the ability to analyze aggregate data, without the exposure of sensitive data during the analysis or in reports.

Access management with multi-factor authentication

Lastly, Thales provided the access management solution Safenet Trusted Access. This solution permitted secure access management with multi-factor authentication (MFA) combined with access policies, permitting a single sign-in access to different applications, such as Microsoft Office 365 and DOC Web - the Court Daily Record Management System, due to be launched as a fully integrated system in November 2021. As a result, access management has been centralized and consolidated via the Safenet Trusted Access solution, whether for cloud-based applications or for systems within the corporate network.

The Result

The Court of Auditors of the State of Mato Grosso was pleased with the rapid implementation of the solutions by Thales in partnership with Neotel. In a matter of days, the platform was available and operational, protecting and controlling access on a growing number of platforms, with minimum impact on Court operations. During the contract period, more and more platforms containing sensitive data will be protected by Thales as an important part of the Information Security Governance project.

The advanced protection of sensitive and confidential information has reassured the TCE-MT of its compliance with the LGPD and other legislation related to data privacy and protection. Thales' technology also provides the Court with the necessary security to continue the process of digital transformation and adopt platforms that increase the agility of the TCE-MT in its public function.

Ultimately, besides offering the protection of monitoring the use of information, the implementation of the Information Security Governance has raised awareness of the importance of data security in an organization that not only monitors, but also educates public administrators. Its experience and best practices will be passed on to hundreds of state public entities.

About Thales

The people you rely on to protect your privacy rely on Thales to protect their data. When it comes to data security, organizations are faced with an increasing number of decisive moments. Whether the moment is building an encryption strategy, moving to the cloud, or meeting compliance mandates, you can rely on Thales to secure your digital transformation.

Decisive technology for decisive moments.