

Case Study

Smart-Choice Technologies (SCT)

achieves PCI certification and bolsters customer confidence with Thales payShield 10K HSM

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About Smart-Choice Technologies (SCT)

Smart Choice Technologies Limited, popularly known as SCT, was established in 2001 and started its operations as the first integrated shared switching payment network service provider in Nepal. SCT-Network is a Payment Service Operator (PSO) offering a diverse range of state-of-the-art payment platforms that provide a complete digital payment solution to Commercial Banks, Development Banks, PSPs (Payment Service Providers) and Financial Institutions, Cooperatives, and Payment Service Operators (PSOs) licensed under Nepal Central Bank.

Challenges

Empowering local banks with secure, cost-effective solutions for compliance

Banks in Nepal often lack the in-house expertise to manage EFT Switching Technology and Card Issuing infrastructure internally. This necessitates a third-party Technology Service Provider (TSP) to handle end-to-end transaction processing, including transaction handling, managing debit/credit, reconciliation, and settlement with major schemes. Additionally, these banks required cost-effective services delivered in a Software as a Service (SaaS) model.

For SCT, the challenge was twofold: delivering a secure environment that complies with a broad range of stringent PCI standards, and protecting Personal Identifiable Information (PII) from unauthorized access, hacking, and theft.

Deployment

Thales payShield 10K HSM: Local support and compliance

To address these challenges, SCT needed to set up a full-fledged and secure environment to serve their banking customers in Nepal. Given the stringent requirements for security and compliance, SCT chose Thales payShield 10K HSM for their environment to provide robust security for transaction processing.

payShield 10K is a payment hardware security module (HSM) used extensively throughout the global payment ecosystem by issuers, service providers, acquirers, processors and payment networks. It plays a fundamental security role in securing the payment credential issuing, user authentication, card authentication and sensitive data protection processes for both face-to-face and digital remote payments.

The decision was significantly influenced by regulatory requirements and payment industry-specific requirements, including compliance with PCI DSS and PCI PTS, which mandated a secure and compliant processing environment, crucial for SCT's operations. In addition, Thales was selected due to its strong network of local partners in Nepal who provided the necessary support for such a business-critical deployment.

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Industry

Payment Service Provider



Location

Kathmandu, NEPAL



Website

sct.com.np

Results

PCI compliance and enhanced security

By implementing Thales payShield 10K HSM, SCT achieves PCI certification, a significant milestone that helps validate their secure operating environment and bolsters customer confidence. Thales payShield 10K HSM plays a crucial role in securing SCT's transaction processing, managing digital keys, and protecting sensitive data. This security framework is vital for both in-person and digital remote payments, helping to ensure SCT's services remain reliable and secure.

The solution has not only improved security but also supports the SaaS delivery model. A strategic partnership with Thales and the access to local support has helped SCT fortify their position as a reliable and secure service provider in Nepal's banking sector.

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.

“ The deployment of Thales payShield 10K HSM has transformed our security infrastructure by helping us to achieve PCI certification, enabling us to offer our services with the highest level of trust and compliance.”

– Subodh Gautam, Chief Business Officer, SCT