Safe Banking Systems fights crime with tech

Partnering with Rackspace Technology for reliability and scale, Safe Banking Systems, a division of Accuity, wields technology as a highly effective weapon to outthink criminals.

Our customer

Safe Banking Systems (SBS), provides anti-money laundering and compliance solutions that help organizations uncover fraud, terrorist financing, money laundering and other financial crimes.

The obstacles they faced

SBS needed a scalable and reliable infrastructure to efficiently screen clients' big data while maintaining strict security and compliance requirements.

How we helped

Rackspace Managed Hosting, Proactive Detection and Response Services, Compliance Assistance, Managed Cisco Firewalls, Alert Logic Threat Manager and Log Manager, Application Servers, Database Servers, F5 Networks Application Delivery Controllers

What we achieved together

Rackspace Technology helped SBS enhance customer experience via reliable, scalable security that supports SBS's quest to identifying potential wrongdoing and maintain the integrity of financial systems.

Finding bad guys while maintaining compliance

Since 1999, Mineola, NY-based Safe Banking Systems (SBS) has been thinking ahead of the risks to combat financial crime and find the bad guys. SBS's specialized anti-money laundering (AML) and compliance solutions enable organizations to uncover money laundering, fraud, terrorist financing and other criminal activity before it poses a serious threat.

A specialist to financial services and other industries — and a Rackspace Technology customer since 2006 — SBS provides clients with a holistic framework for managing enterprise-wide risk in a data-driven environment. SBS was recently included for the third consecutive year in the Chartis RiskTech 100® report, a comprehensive study of the world's most significant risk and compliance technology companies.

"We took a look at the 36 companies above us in the list based in the U.S. and their number of employees range from thousands to more than 100,000. We have an employee count of 28, but what isn't on that list is the thousands of Rackers working with us, too," said David Schiffer, Safe Banking Systems Founder and President.

Proactively identifying risk

SBS helps identify and monitor risk across the enterprise to protect financial assets and reputations while ensuring full compliance with the USA PATRIOT Act, OFAC and BSA.

The company has developed a methodology, partly patented, that finds the bad guys in ways that other companies haven't been able to.

"We have customers who have 100 million clients, so matching that against lists of bad guys in the millions, how do you get value

"Rackspace's security controls and reputation as an SSAE 16 Certified Provider has been a tremendous factor in our success."

David Schiffer
Founder and President,
Safe Banking Systems

out of that?" Schiffer asked. "How do you find the bad guys?"

The answer: Sometimes they're hiding in plain sight. In 2009, SBS identified six names, listed in public Federal Aviation Administration registry data, of people who retained federal aviation licenses in spite of being suspected of crimes that posed a risk to national security. The FAA and TSA revoked these licenses within 24 hours of the news going public.

Subsequently, while working with the same FAA registry, SBS discovered the name Fernando Zevallos, a convicted drug kingpin in Peru, was also licensed by FAA as a pilot. SBS began analyzing public data associated with Zevallos, who was already imprisoned on narcotics and money-laundering charges.

"Two years later, we found his Miami-based attorney who had laundered $500 million for him — and we found him in two of our customer sites," recalled Schiffer. "That was certainly an eye-opener for us and for our customers."

Supporting its future

Rackspace Technology has helped SBS significantly in addressing compliance goals and enabling the company to obtain approval from major institutions with some of the industry's strictest compliance and highest security requirements.

Recently, SBS worked with Rackspace Technology on a large VNX migration, requiring six months of joint meetings and planning, including (as the migration deadline drew near) biweekly meetings and consecutive Saturdays spent with the Rackspace Technology team.

"The migration went through without a hitch," said Schiffer. "Rackspace's offering and ability to allow us to scale has been

the key reason behind our success in the hosted environment."

SBS is no stranger to Fanatical Experience™. "My tech staff are tough guys who have absolutely given the most wonderful praises for Rackspace support," Schiffer said. "Recently we received a call from Rackspace that said, 'One of your drives has gone down.' They actually had it back up and running within an hour, before we would have even known it was down."

With the relationship between SBS and Rackspace Technology now approaching its third decade, Schiffer sees a number of upcoming items for collaboration.

"One of our main initiatives for this year for Rackspace is to move our development and QA sites to Rackspace, again for security, reliability and scalability," Schiffer said. "We are also looking at a Hyper-V situation and we're going to be signing up for a POC very soon."

"Rackspace allowing us to scale has been vital to our success in the hosted environment, and a key reason that a small company like ours has been so successful."

David Schiffer – Founder and President, Safe Banking Systems

About Rackspace Technology

Rackspace Technology is the multicloud solutions expert. We combine our expertise with the world's leading technologies — across applications, data and security — to deliver end-to-end solutions. We have a proven record of advising customers based on their business challenges, designing solutions that scale, building and managing those solutions, and optimizing returns into the future.

As a global, multicloud technology services pioneer, we deliver innovative capabilities of the cloud to help customers build new revenue streams, increase efficiency and create incredible experiences. Named a best place to work, year after year according to Fortune, Forbes, and Glassdoor, we attract and develop world-class talent to deliver the best expertise to our customers. Everything we do is wrapped in our obsession with our customers' success — our Fanatical Experience™ — so they can work faster, smarter and stay ahead of what's next.

Learn more at **www.rackspace.com** or call **1-800-961-2888**.