SUCCESS STORY

Experience feedback from CAL&F – DOT Anonymizer

based on an interview with Blaise Diagne, DPO Corporate at CAL&F

CRÉDIT AGRICOLE
LEASING & FACTORING

Our customer

Crédit Agricole Leasing & Factoring (CAL&F) is a subsidiary of the Crédit Agricole Group, the world's leading cooperative bank and France's largest bank. With an international presence covering 10 countries in the European Union, as well as operations in Egypt and Mauritius, CAL&F specializes in leasing, factoring and energy, and infrastructure financing. Its main customers include entrepreneurs, SMEs, corporations, and institutions. The group has 256,000 customers, 2,700 employees, and outstanding financing of 29.7 billion euros.

Context of the anonymization project

Data anonymization is an increasingly critical topic, particularly with the application of the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). CAL&F's anonymization project was initiated in response to several triggering factors:

- The recommendations of information systems security agencies, such as EMISA and ANSSI.
- The requirements of the GDPR particularly in terms of data protection and the right to be forgotten.
- The Crédit Agricole Group's information system security policy.
- The need to effectively manage data retention periods and implement the right to be forgotten.
- The need for a software solution to avoid the internal development of complex and costly anonymization scripts.

Project progress

The anonymization project was carried out in several phases:

Initial evaluation and solution selection: A Request for Information (RFI) and a Request for Product (RFP) were launched to identify the solutions available on the market. CAL&F finally opted for ARCAD Software's DOT Anonymizer solution after a conclusive proof of concept (POC).

POC : The POC was carried out on six critical applications with different database technologies, including Oracle, IBM DB2, SQL

Server, and PostgreSQL. The POC was used to test data discovery and anonymization functionalities.

Implementation : A dedicated test platform was set up to implement the solution on 30 key CAL&F applications. This phase included the construction of development, integration and acceptance environments.

Deployment: The production implementation covers three main use cases: the anonymization of non-production environments, the management of retention periods, and the exercise of the right to be forgotten.

Benefits

The main benefits obtained through this project are:

Regulatory compliance: CAL&F ensures compliance with the GDPR, particularly in terms of personal data protection, retention periods, and the right to be forgotten.

Efficiency and speed: The solution enables rapid data discovery (a few minutes for several terabytes of data) and efficient anonymization (around five minutes for the largest databases).

Time and resource savings: The automation of anonymization processes considerably reduces the time and resources required, avoiding the need for complex in-house scripting.

Homogeneity and consistency: Homogeneous, automatic data anonymization across all identified databases and schemas ensures high functional consistency.

Awareness and buy-in: CAL&F employees are highly aware of the challenges of GDPR and anonymization, integrating these practices into their daily processes.

Improved control and quality of IS data: Data discovery has enabled CAL&F to reappropriate knowledge of the data in the databases connected to DOT Anonymizer, update physical data models, enrich the dictionary and data quality, thus guaranteeing the updating and mastery of information systems in France and internationally.

Next steps

The next stages of the project include:

Production implementation: Finalization of production implementation covering anonymization of non-production environments, management of retention periods, and the right to be forgotten.

Continuous improvement: Ongoing monitoring of solution performance and adjustment of anonymization scripts in line with changes in database schemas.

Capacity extension: Possible integration of cloud data and collaboration with editors to validate and improve anonymization requests.

Training and awareness: Continued efforts to train teams while raising their awareness of data protection and anonymization best practices.

Monitoring and evaluation: Regular monitoring and evaluation of the solution's impact on business processes and information system performance.

" The 2-in-1 solution with a very friendly interface enabled data discovery and effective anonymization, meeting our complex needs. "

Blaise Diagne, Corporate DPO at CAL&F

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