



Transforming Configuration Management

For a US Savings Bank

BANK

Project Summary

Background

A US-based, state-chartered bank wanted to take its security to the next level by implementing CIS Benchmarks across its IT environment.

With over 400 servers in operation today—a dramatic increase from just 70 servers 14 years ago—the bank needed to maintain a consistent configuration management process. Lack of visibility into configuration changes and compliance can create risks, and is an area under increasing scrutiny from regulators.

Before Guardian

Before implementing [Guardian](#) by Cloudhouse, which gives companies clear visibility of their entire IT estate, the bank's configuration management approach was reactive and manual. Regulators could also question the bank's ability to track changes and prove compliance at any time. These challenges underscored the need for a robust, scalable tool to manage configurations efficiently.



Choosing Guardian

Recognizing the need for a comprehensive solution, the bank adopted Cloudhouse Guardian to mature its configuration management process. Guardian became the central application for tracking, monitoring, and ensuring compliance across multiple environments, including:

- **VMware ESXi Hosts**
- **Cisco Systems**
- **Windows Server environments**
- **Windows 11 systems**
- **RedHat environments**

The implementation process was straightforward, spanning four weeks, during which the system was fine-tuned to report accurately on the bank's unique environment details.

Results to Date

Since implementing **Guardian**, the bank has achieved significant improvements:



Enhanced visibility and control: Guardian provides visibility into **configuration drift**, empowering the team to detect and remediate issues hourly rather than relying on chance discovery.



Improved compliance: Monthly metrics presented to the Board of Directors consistently show compliance levels above 98%. For the VMware EXSi environment in particular, compliance reached 100% and has been maintained consistently.



Efficiency gains: The automation capabilities of Guardian have freed up personnel to focus on strategic initiatives. Without Guardian, approximately two to four full-time staff would have been required to manage configurations manually.



Critical issue resolution: Guardian proved invaluable in helping the bank meet strict security requirements for its work with the US Federal Reserve Bank. By generating daily



Results to Date

Looking ahead, the bank plans to extend its use of Guardian to application-level configuration management and **CIS benchmarking**.

The roadmap includes:

- Expanding **CIS benchmarks** for **Windows 11** systems.
- Implementing compliance tracking for applications.
- Continuing to enhance operating system compliance throughout 2025.
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With **Guardian**, the bank can confidently demonstrate its commitment to regulatory compliance, operational efficiency, and strategic growth.

