Monsido Provides Digital Sovereignty Peace of Mind

With the CipherTrust Data Security Platform as-a-Service

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Building a future we can all trust

The Organization

Monsido powered by CivicPlus® is a leading technology solution that helps organizations create better website experiences and navigate compliance within the digital communications landscape. More than 3,300+ organizations across the globe use Monsido's web governance platform to optimize their websites and improve the experience for users accessing essential information, services, and resources. The Monsido website auditing tool also helps its customers ensure compliance with the latest accessibility, data privacy, and legal policy requirements. With its European office based in Ballerup, Denmark, the company has IT operations in Belgium, the United States, and Australia to support customers globally.

The Business Challenge

Even though most of the website data handled by the Monsido platform is public, the company handles some personally identifiable information (PII) and wants their customers to know that this data is protected in compliance with European privacy regulations. Under the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), companies are obligated to protect personal data. Additionally, the Court of Justice of the European Union confirmed and clarified with its Schrems II judgment that the unrestricted transfer of personal data to IT service providers outside the EU is illegal. As a cloud-first company navigating the aftermath of Schrems II, Monsido powered by CivicPlus wanted to proactively address European customer concerns about digital sovereignty.

The Monsido tool operates entirely on the Google Cloud Platform. Although Google Cloud provides a default encryption tool, Monsido wanted a solution that would ensure their encryption keys were held outside of their cloud environment in accordance with guidelines from the Danish Data Protection Agency (DDPA). In addition, they wanted a solution that would allow them to be in control, and to revoke the keys from Google if necessary, providing peace of mind for their customers.

The Solution

To keep EU data close to their European office, Monsido powered by CivicPlus identified a shortlist of providers offering cloud-based external key management services with data center operations in Europe. After quick and seamless proof-of-concept (POC) evaluation with functionality testing, they selected the Thales CipherTrust Data Security Platform as-a-Service (CDSPaaS), available through the Thales Data Protection on Demand (DPoD) online marketplace.

Thales hosts CDSPaaS in secure data centers in Europe and North America, and each subscription is backed by a FIPS 140-2 Level 3 certified Thales Luna Cloud HSM with a 99.95% SLA. CDSPaaS is built to auto scale to meet demands placed on the service, ensuring high availability as well as resilience to meet industry-comparable SLAs.

CipherTrust Cloud Key Management

The Thales CipherTrust Cloud Key Management (CCKM) service, part of CDSPaaS, provides the Monsido platform with centralized management of cloud encryption keys and seamless integration with the Google Cloud External Key Manager "Hold Your Own Key" (HYOK) solution. Offering support for the HYOK APIs provided by Cloud Service Providers (CSPs), CCKM automates key lifecycle management, enables key generation, usage logging and reporting, and facilitates 'key decoupling' by securely storing the keys separately from the encrypted data. These features provide stronger controls over encryption key lifecycles for the data encrypted by CSPs than native encryption.

The Results

"The key thing for us is GDPR compliance and peace of mind for our customers," says Tim Warberg, Senior Software Architect and Platform Engineer at Monsido powered by CivicPlus. "Thales's CipherTrust Cloud Key Management (CCKM) service on the DPoD marketplace allows us to hold and control encryption keys on behalf of our customers outside of the cloud platform where the data resides, including revoking the keys to remove access from cloud administrators as needed. Government customers tend to be on the safe side, we were hearing from prospects that this is something they would like to see."

An early customer, Monsido powered by CivicPlus participated in the beta program for CDSPaaS, starting with a free account to test the service before becoming a permanent tenant. Warberg said they were quickly able to set up their environment and connect the endpoints to the Google Cloud Platform. "I set up the keys, did some testing on latency and found no issues at all. It was really simple. We didn't need to do much more," said Warberg. "The SaaS deployment model aligns well with our cloud-only strategy. We have plenty to do already and prefer not to manage on premises data security infrastructure."

- **Addressed digital sovereignty requirements, giving customers the peace of mind that their data is secure and meets compliance regulations including GDPR and Schrems II.**
- **Followed the guidance of DDPA, ensuring encryption keys are stored securely outside of the corresponding cloud service provider.**
- **Supported the company's cloud-first approach with no hardware to buy, support, or update. Thales regularly updates CDSPaaS providing access to the latest CipherTrust services without disruption.**

Scan for a free DPoD Account

Get a free trial of CDSPaaS in three easy steps:

1. Sign up for a DPoD Marketplace account.
2. Select the CDSP service on the DPoD Marketplace and fill in the requested information.
3. Log in and get started.

Benefits of DPoD

With DPoD, there is no equipment to purchase and no hardware to install, so Monsido powered by CivicPlus was quickly able to sign up for a free account, evaluate CDSPaaS and fully implement the solution into its environment within weeks, not months. Thales offers free trial accounts so customers like Monsido powered by CivicPlus can evaluate and run functionality tests before purchasing.

About Thales

Today's businesses and governments depend on the cloud, data and software to deliver trusted digital services. That is why the most recognized brands and organizations around the world, rely on Thales to help them protect sensitive information and software wherever it is created, stored or accessed – from the cloud and data centers to devices and across networks. As the global leader in data security, identity & access management, and software licensing, our solutions enable organizations to move to the cloud securely, achieve compliance with confidence, create more value from their software and deliver seamless digital experiences for millions of consumers every day.