

Veridian Credit Union Selects Lightbeam over Varonis to Protect Member Data and Streamline PCI Compliance

Case Study

Overview of Veridian Credit Union

Veridian Credit Union, headquartered in Waterloo, Iowa, is one of the largest credit unions in the United States, serving over 300,000 members. Renowned for its commitment to innovation and exceptional member service, Veridian places paramount importance on safeguarding member information and adhering rigorously to regulatory requirements such as PCI-DSS, NCUA, and HIPAA.

Opportunity to Enhance Data Security and Member Protection

As part of their ongoing commitment to protecting member information, Veridian Credit Union recognized an opportunity to strengthen their data security practices and proactively support evolving compliance standards. With a complex environment spanning hundreds of servers and thousands of workstations, Veridian sought to improve visibility into the location, ownership, associated identities, and movement of sensitive data. By moving beyond legacy reporting tools, Veridian was able to establish a more modern, efficient, and automated data security and governance framework—positioning the organization to better safeguard member data and accelerate compliance initiatives like PCI-DSS 4.0.

“As our data continues to grow, we found it challenging to maintain visibility to where all the data was stored. Generating clear and actionable reports required considerable manual work.”

- David Hanna, IT Security Specialist

Evaluating Solutions and Choosing Lightbeam

Veridian initiated a thorough evaluation process for a Data Security Posture Management (DSPM) solution that could discover sensitive data, classify it, and assess the security and compliance risks. The testing involved detailed comparisons and twomonth proof-of-value (POV) trials with vendors including Lightbeam and Varonis. Throughout this process, Lightbeam stood out with exceptional attention to customer needs, proactive updates, and innovative technology. A crucial factor in their decision was Lightbeam's Entity Resolution capability through its AI-Powered Data Identity Graph technology, which uniquely offered comprehensive insights into sensitive data ownership and business context.

Implementation: On-Premises Deployment

Driven by stringent security requirements and cost management considerations, Veridian Credit Union opted for an onpremises deployment of Lightbeam instead of choosing SaaS or cloud-based options. This strategic decision ensured the highest level of control and security by keeping their sensitive data and metadata within their own secure infrastructure, eliminating risks associated with data leaving their premises. **The implementation involved comprehensive scanning and monitoring of hundreds of distinct data sources, including servers, databases, and other critical assets.** Despite the complexity of the environment, the Lightbeam team provided tailored scripts and scalable infrastructure solutions, enabling a robust and secure data security platform.

"We chose Lightbeam because it offered us granular control and unique insights into our sensitive data—including the ability to figure out the identities associated with sensitive data—something no other solution matched. Lightbeam's responsiveness and innovation were the primary reasons we selected Lightbeam over Varonis."

- David Hanna, IT Security Specialist

“Lightbeam dramatically improved our PCI compliance processes, enabling accurate, efficient audits, and rapid response to potential compliance risks.”

- **David Hanna, IT Security Specialist**

Veridian leveraged Lightbeam for critical data security tasks such as:

- **Sensitive Data Discovery and Classification:** Quickly identifying credentials and sensitive member information across structured and unstructured data sources.
- **Assessing Security Postures:** Ensuring compliance by discovering, monitoring, and continuously securing PCI
- **Automated Data Access Remediation:** Reducing exposure risks by ensuring only the appropriate people have access to sensitive data.

Use Cases and PCI Compliance

With Lightbeam, Veridian streamlined PCI compliance processes, transitioning from high-level and non-specific regulatory adherence to precise, actionable compliance with PCI 4.0, simplifying audit preparations and improving compliance reporting accuracy.

Business Benefits Achieved

Following implementation, Veridian Credit Union observed significant improvements:

- **Enhanced Security:** Improved risk detection and swift remediation significantly reduced exposure to data breaches
- **Operational Efficiency:** Automation and accuracy in data governance processes enabled Veridian to avoid manual intervention and allocate resources more effectively.
- **Cost Reduction:** Streamlined compliance processes and reduced reliance on manual efforts, decreased overall operational, and compliance-related expenses.

“Deploying Lightbeam on premises gave us the confidence and control we needed. Even when faced with tight timelines, the Lightbeam team was responsive and attentive.”

- David Hanna, IT Security Specialist

Future Plans with Lightbeam

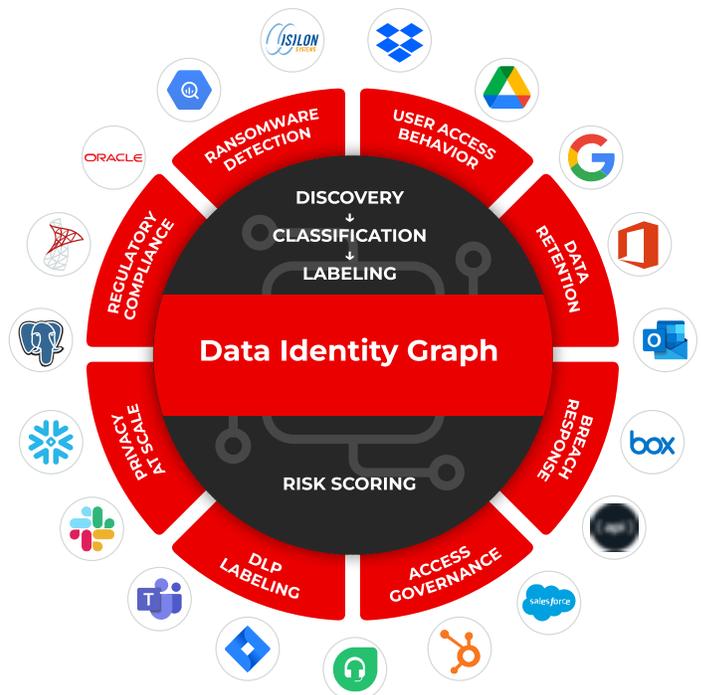
Veridian intends to deepen its integration of Lightbeam as a core component of their comprehensive data governance strategy. For example, Lightbeam will play a key role in helping Veridian distinguish between credit card numbers they issue and those issued by third parties. By classifying credit card data contextually, Lightbeam enabled Veridian to separate its own account numbers from external ones, supporting internal compliance, risk assessment, and potential fraud detection use cases. Veridian also plans to leverage Lightbeam's capabilities further for data retention management, continuous compliance improvement, and governance frameworks, effectively aligning with future business growth and regulatory requirements.

We see Lightbeam as central to our data governance strategy, enabling continuous protection of our members' information and compliance with evolving regulations."

—David Hanna, IT Security Specialist

"Lightbeam reduced compliance costs and improved operational efficiencies, allowing us to focus our resources on strategic security initiatives."

- David Hanna, IT Security Specialist



Conclusion

By strategically adopting Lightbeam, Veridian Credit Union elevated its data security and compliance posture while laying the foundation for long-term governance excellence. Selecting Lightbeam over other vendors reflected Veridian's commitment to innovation, precision, and member data protection. With identity-centric data insights, automated policy enforcement, and strong alignment to PCI 4.0 and broader regulatory frameworks, Veridian is now positioned to scale its data security and governance program with confidence—supporting both operational efficiency and the trust of its members.



About Lightbeam

Lightbeam is an identity-centric data security platform that reduces breach risks, ransomware costs, and regulatory penalties by unifying DSPM, privacy, and governance. Using patented Data Identity Graph technology, it discovers and maps sensitive data—including shadow data—across structured, unstructured, and semi-structured sources, enabling precise governance, automated privacy workflows, and enhanced data security. For any questions or suggestions, please contact us at: sales@lightbeam.ai or visit us at <https://lightbeam.ai>

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