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Fortifying Data Security With IBM Guardium for a Leading Bank in South Africa

Case Study

An RPG Company

Overview
Safeguarding sensitive data across the globe

Our client, a prominent South African bank and financial services group wanted to strengthen data security and enhance its IBM Guardium environment.
With numerous global data centers, 200+ critical servers, and many databases containing highly-sensitive information, the client faced challenges managing data traffic, maintaining stability, and upgrading its Guardium infrastructure.

Challenges
Revamping Guardium for security, stability, and data traffic visibility

- Data monitoring challenges arose from agent communication (STAP and KTAP)
- Instability in the existing Guardium environment posed policy, reporting, audit, and deployment issues
- Guardium traffic load-balancing and failover problems caused frequent disk full issues, leading to Guardium appliance corruption
- Data traffic workflow and visibility presented difficulties
- Frequent offline occurrences of Guardium collectors
- Frequent aggregation process failures in Guardium appliances
- Inactive or lacking information details for Guardium agent STAP and KTAP status
- Collectors' utilization unexpectedly spiked at times

Solution
Tailored support for enhanced Guardium performance

Our team provided end-to-end support to mature the IBM Guardium environment, focusing on fixing existing challenges and enhancing overall performance.
By redefining the DAM policy structure, we helped optimized data capture strategies to capture only relevant data. Further, we ensured secure access to sensitive data across the enterprise through continuous monitoring and policy enforcement. Zensar introduced enterprise load balancing (ELB) that enhanced the Guardium collectors' performance, resolving disk full and offline challenges.
We restructured the Guardium workflow architecture to enable efficient aggregation processes and introduced new Guardium appliances to help increase capacity to accommodate high-data traffic. Our solution helped the client improve real-time reporting accuracy by fine-tuning aggregation workflows and timelines.
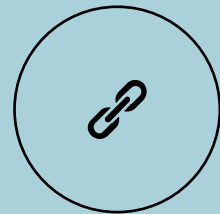We also went beyond our initial scope and conducted a comprehensive health assessment to identify critical gaps and address VMware and network stabilization issues.
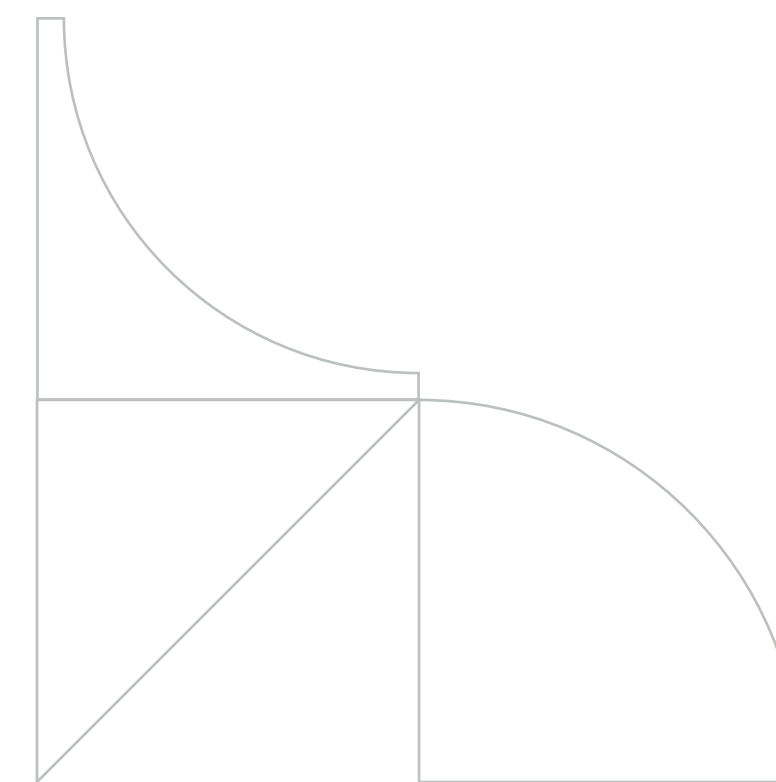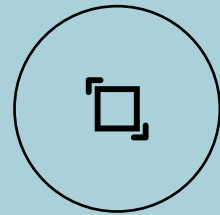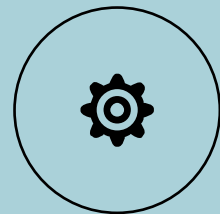
Impact
Achieving unmatched data security and efficiency

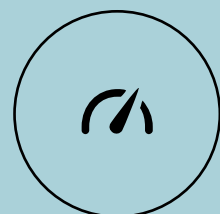Stabilized Guardium's overall health and functionality by collaborating with the VM and Network teams

Scaled up the database and Guardium capacity to handle high data traffic more accurately

Upgraded Guardium appliances to mitigate vulnerabilities and enhance security

Improved data traffic visibility and monitoring capabilities

Optimized overall Guardium performance, security posture, and process management

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