
SECURING NON- CREDIT CARD, SENSITIVE CONSUMER DATA

Consumer Data Security for the Retail Sector

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The National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (NCCoE) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) addresses businesses' most pressing cybersecurity problems with practical, standards-based solutions using commercially available technologies. The NCCoE collaborates with industry, academic, and government experts to build modular, open, end-to-end reference designs that are broadly applicable and repeatable. To learn more about the NCCoE, visit <http://nccoe.nist.gov>. To learn more about NIST, visit <http://www.nist.gov>.

This document describes a particular problem that is relevant across the consumer-facing/retail sector. NCCoE cybersecurity experts will address this challenge through collaboration with members of the consumer-facing/retail sector and vendors of cybersecurity solutions. The resulting reference design will detail an approach that can be used by consumer-facing/retail sector organizations.

ABSTRACT

As a result of payment card industry standards and a strong understanding of the value of valid credit card information in the black market, the retail industry has already invested in security mechanisms to protect credit card data, also referred to as cardholder data. However, this cardholder data is not the only valuable consumer information that is transmitted and stored by retailers. Other data that can be personally identifiable and is transmitted and stored in this ecosystem includes but is not limited to: consumer purchasing habits (including geographical locations, preferences, search history), date of birth, home or business address, phone number, email address, user id, password, IP addresses, and Social Security Number. As seen following high-profile data breaches in the healthcare sector, personally identifiable information (PII) is valued at up to 20 times more than credit card data, with a single credit card number sold at \$1 and the average individual's PII sold at \$20.¹

In collaboration with stakeholders in the retail and commercial payment ecosystem, the NCCoE has identified that implementing data masking and tokenization, coupled with fine grained access control such as Attribute Based Access Control², may significantly improve the security of PII transmitted and stored during commercial payment transactions, as well as PII shared internally within a retail organization and externally with business partners. Building on this collaboration with the business community and vendors of cybersecurity solutions, the NCCoE will explore methods of effectively masking and tokenizing PII during commercial payment transactions and develop an example solution composed of open-source and commercially available components to address these real-world business challenges. This project will produce a NIST

Cybersecurity Practice Guide—a publically available description of the solution and practical steps needed to implement practices that more effectively secure the handling of non-credit card, sensitive consumer data.

KEYWORDS

retail; e-commerce; data masking; tokenization; access control; ABAC; attribute based access control; PII; consumer data

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1 **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

2 **Purpose**

3 The purpose of this project is to help retailers secure non-credit card, sensitive
4 consumer data by utilizing standards-based commercially available and open source
5 products. The project process includes identifying stakeholders who interact with retail
6 systems and non-credit card consumer data; defining the interactions between the
7 stakeholders, system, and data; identifying mitigating security technologies; and
8 ultimately providing an example implementation.

9 Retailers easily gather sensitive data during typical business activities, which can be used
10 by various internal users and external partners to accelerate business operations,
11 improve consumer shopping experience, and increase revenue opportunities. There has
12 been an increase in the value of non-credit card, sensitive consumer data on the black
13 market and relatively few regulations or standards specific to this topic in the consumer-
14 facing/retail industry in the United States. Some regulations and standards have
15 emerged or are emerging in Europe and other parts of the world around privacy and
16 protecting personally identifiable information (PII), and those precedents can inform our
17 work in this space. There remains a gap to be filled in terms of understanding the risks
18 and implementing security controls to mitigate those risks concerning non-credit card,
19 sensitive consumer data.

20 The publication of this Project Description is the beginning of a process that will identify
21 project participants and hardware and software components for use in a laboratory
22 environment to build open, standards-based, modular, end-to-end reference designs.
23 The approach may include architectural definition, logical design, build development,
24 test and evaluation, and security control mapping. The output of the process will be the
25 publication of a multi-volume NIST Cybersecurity Practice Guide that will help the
26 community consider practices that should improve the security environment
27 surrounding protecting non-credit card, sensitive consumer data.

28 **Scope**

29 The scope of this example solution includes the implementation of data masking and
30 tokenization mechanisms for non-credit card, sensitive consumer data during
31 commercial payment transactions both via point-of-sale (POS) and e-commerce
32 transactions, along with fine grained attribute based access control (ABAC) for users
33 both inside and outside an organization. A layered approach to data security including
34 point-to-point encryption (P2PE) is generally advisable.

35 **Assumptions**

36 This example solution of securing non-credit card, sensitive consumer data will provide
37 security benefits including reduced risk of data breach and an increased confidence and
38 trust between the consumer and retailer. The benefits of using a solution that protects

39 non-credit card, sensitive consumer data will outweigh any additional risks that may be
40 introduced. The security of existing systems and networks is out of scope for this
41 project. A key assumption is that all potential adopters of the build or any of its
42 components already have in place some degree of system and network security.
43 Therefore, we focused on the effort of implementing fine-grained access control,
44 tokenization, and data masking. The goal of this solution is to not introduce additional
45 vulnerabilities into existing systems.

46 **Background**

47 The NCCoE, working with consumer-facing and retail organizations and e-commerce
48 payment stakeholders including information sharing and analysis centers (ISACs) and the
49 Retail Cyber Intelligence Sharing Center (R-CISC), identified the need for a solution that
50 protects non-credit card, sensitive consumer data. The need arises from the recognition
51 that the value of this data is now significantly higher than credit card data on the black
52 market, in addition to potential value for the purposes of extortion or reputational
53 embarrassment depending on the details of the data, and thus is a higher value target
54 for malicious actors. Also, with the general trend of widespread digital collaboration
55 inside and outside an organization, various stakeholders need varying levels of access to
56 the same and different resources. The NCCoE held a workshop to identify key issues that
57 affect securing non-credit card, sensitive consumer data. The conversations held and
58 insight derived from that workshop have informed the direction of this project and this
59 Project Description.

60 **2. SCENARIOS**

61 The scenarios described here provide high-level context for this challenge and inform
62 the high-level architecture. Continued work on this project will result in a NIST
63 Cybersecurity Practice Guide, Special Publication Series 1800, which will detail how
64 noted security mechanisms are implemented.

65 **Scenario 1: Access to sensitive data inside an organization**

66 A new customer is signing up for the loyalty program of a brick-and-mortar retailer that
67 also has an e-commerce website. At the Customer Service desk, the user is asked to
68 enter the following data in order to register: name, address, email address, phone
69 number, and date of birth. After the user enters his information, he receives a physical
70 loyalty card that provides benefits including discounts both in-store and online. The user
71 shops in the store during the day, and then logs into the website in the evening to
72 purchase a few more items.

73 In the background, at the point of capture in-store, the retailer has tokenized the
74 cardholder data as required by PCI DSS standards during the payment transaction, but
75 has also tokenized and data masked the non-credit card sensitive PII gathered during
76 account registration and during the shopping trip online. The tokens are secured but
77 accessible to parties with need-to-know access rights, while the actual raw data is

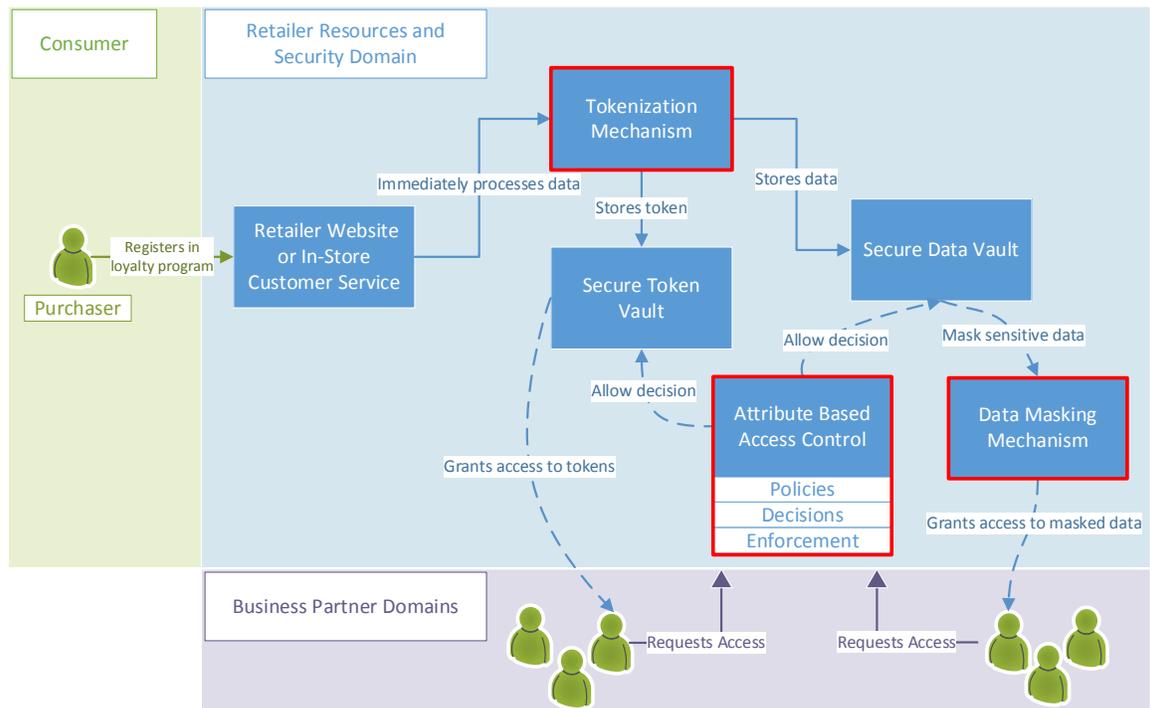
78 stored in a highly secure data store. Subsequent access requests from within the
79 retailer's organization for the tokens or actual data are evaluated according to access
80 control policies that correlate to the organization's business rules and relevant
81 standards and regulations. In some cases, access to the non-credit card, sensitive data
82 may be granted, but in many cases the token itself can be used in place of the actual
83 data, such as internal business functions including returns, sales reports, marketing
84 analysis, and recurring payments. Employees in sales, marketing, and order
85 management and fulfillment departments are all granted access to the tokens when
86 there is a verified need-to-know access request, but not the actual data. Customer
87 service employees are granted access to the actual data when there is a verified need-
88 to-know request, but with other sensitive data masked.

89 **Scenario 2: Access to sensitive data outside an organization**

90 The retailer has decided to outsource its marketing analysis to a consulting company
91 and its order fulfillment to a fulfillment house, both of whom frequently need access to
92 some consumer data. Similar to the above scenario, all cardholder and non-cardholder,
93 sensitive PII data are tokenized and the actual data is stored in a highly secure data
94 store.

95 A marketing analyst outside the organization has been assigned a project related to
96 long-standing customers and shopping patterns over time. The analyst requests access
97 to the purchasing habits data of the retailer's long-standing customers. Instead of access
98 to actual or masked data, the analyst is granted access to the tokens, which can still be
99 used for the project at hand.

100 Similarly, when a retailer receives an online order, a fulfillment request is sent over as a
101 token to the fulfillment house. The fulfillment house must use the token to access the
102 real data in order to access the customer's shipping address and ship the order.

103 **3. HIGH-LEVEL ARCHITECTURE OF SCENARIO 2**

104

105

Diagram 1: High-level Architecture Illustrating Scenario 2

106 **Component List**

107 A solution for securing non-credit card, sensitive consumer data includes but is not
 108 limited to the following components:

- 109
- Online retail website or simulated customer service portal with loyalty program registration
 - 110
 - 111 • Tokenization mechanism
 - 112 • Secure data store for tokens
 - 113 • Secure data vault for actual data
 - 114 • Data masking mechanism
 - 115 • Attribute Based Access Control (ABAC) platform
 - 116 a. Policies
 - 117 b. Decision making
 - 118 c. Decision enforcement

119 **Desired Requirements**

- 120
- Data tokenization and token management
 - 121 o Token generation

- 122 ○ Token mapping
- 123 ○ Non-credit card, sensitive consumer data vault
- 124 ○ Cryptographic key management
- 125 • Data masking
- 126 • Fine-grained Attribute Based Access Control (ABAC) for internal and external
- 127 users
- 128 ○ Automated logging of access requests and decisions
- 129 ○ Access control policy creation
- 130 ○ Determining access control decisions based on policies
- 131 ○ Access control policy enforcement

132 4. RELEVANT STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE

- 133 • American Institute of CPAs, Reporting on Controls at a Service Organization
- 134 Relevant to Security, Availability, Processing Integrity, Confidentiality, or Privacy
- 135 (SOC 2®)
- 136 [https://www.aicpa.org/InterestAreas/FRC/AssuranceAdvisoryServices/Pages/SO](https://www.aicpa.org/InterestAreas/FRC/AssuranceAdvisoryServices/Pages/SOCGuidesandPublications.aspx)
- 137 [CGuidesandPublications.aspx](https://www.aicpa.org/InterestAreas/FRC/AssuranceAdvisoryServices/Pages/SOCGuidesandPublications.aspx)
- 138 • European Parliament/Legislative Observatory, European Commission, Regulation
- 139 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of individuals
- 140 with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of
- 141 such data (General Data Protection Regulation)
- 142 [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/document/review2012/com_2012_11_en.pdf)
- 143 [protection/document/review2012/com_2012_11_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/document/review2012/com_2012_11_en.pdf)
- 144 • ISO/IEC 27001, Information Technology – Security Techniques – Information
- 145 Security Management Systems
- 146 [http://www.iso.org/iso/home/search.htm?qt=27001&sort=rel&type=simple&pu](http://www.iso.org/iso/home/search.htm?qt=27001&sort=rel&type=simple&published=on)
- 147 [blished=on](http://www.iso.org/iso/home/search.htm?qt=27001&sort=rel&type=simple&published=on)
- 148 • ISO/IEC 27018, Information technology -- Security techniques -- Code of practice
- 149 for protection of personally identifiable information (PII) in public clouds acting
- 150 as PII processors
- 151 http://www.iso.org/iso/catalogue_detail.htm?csnumber=61498
- 152 • NIST Cybersecurity Framework - Standards, guidelines, and best practices to
- 153 promote the protection of critical infrastructure
- 154 <http://www.nist.gov/itl/cyberframework.cfm>
- 155 • NIST SP 800-53, Recommended Security Controls for Federal Information
- 156 Systems
- 157 <http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/drafts/800-53-rev4/sp800-53-rev4-ipd.pdf>

- 158 • NIST SP 800-122, Guide to Protecting the Confidentiality of Personally
 159 Identifiable Information (PII)
 160 <http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistpubs/800-122/sp800-122.pdf>
 161 • Payment Card Industry (PCI) Data Security Standard, Requirements and Security
 162 Assessment Procedures, Version 3.1, April 2015, PCI Security Standards Council,
 163 https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/documents/PCI_DSS_v3-1.pdf

164 5. SECURITY CONTROL MAP

165 Table 1 maps the characteristics of the applicable standards and best practices
 166 described in the Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity (CSF),
 167 and other NIST activities. The solution characteristics offered in the table are the ones
 168 expected to be explored in this project. This mapping exercise, which is likely to expand
 169 as the project progresses, is meant to demonstrate the real-world applicability of
 170 standards and best practices.

Solution Characteristic	NIST CSF Category	Informative References
Data vaults	PR.DS-1 PR.DS-3	NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 4 SC-28; CM-8, MP-6, PE-16 ISO/IEC 27001:2013 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 9.1.6, 9.2.6, 9.2.7, 10.7.1, 10.7.2, 10.7.3
Cryptographic key management	PR.DS-1 PR.DS-2	NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 4 SC-28, SC-8 ISO/IEC 27001:2013 A.8.2.3, A.13.1.1, A.13.1.2, A.13.2.3, A.14.1.2, A.14.1.3
Data masking	PR.DS-1	NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 4 SC-28; CM-8, MP-6, PE-16 ISO/IEC 27001:2013 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 9.1.6, 9.2.6, 9.2.7, 10.7.1, 10.7.2, 10.7.3
Automated logging	PR.PT-1	NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 4 AU Family, IR-5, IR-6 ISO/IEC 27001:2013 A.12.4.1, A.12.4.2, A.12.4.3, A.12.4.4, A.12.7.1
Automated data storage	PR.DS-1 PR.DS-3	NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 4 SC-28; CM-8, MP-6, PE-16 ISO/IEC 27001:2013 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 9.1.6, 9.2.6, 9.2.7, 10.7.1, 10.7.2, 10.7.3
Access control	PR.PT-3	NIST SP 800-53 Rev. 4 AC-3, CM-7 ISO/IEC 27001:2013 A.9.1.2

171 [Table 1: Security Control Map](#)

172 APPENDIX A – REFERENCES

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