

Customer Reference:

# Alfa-Bank Kazakhstan

PCI DSS Compliance at Leading Bank of the CIS Region

Shell Control Box (SCB) Case Study

# Bank



”SCB is a core component of Alfa Bank’s new Information Security Strategy.“

*Mr. Andrey Fedotov, Head of Information Security, Alfa Bank Kazakhstan.*

**Alfa-Bank Kazakhstan** was established in 1994 and has become one of the most reliable and progressive banks in Kazakhstan. It is a full-service bank which guarantees high-quality and timely services to corporate and individual clients. Alfa-Bank Kazakhstan prioritizes fast and high-quality financial flows between Russia and Kazakhstan.

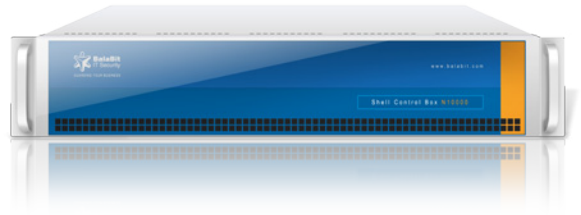
## The Challenge

As a financial provider handling card data, Alfa-Bank Kazakhstan must comply with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS). Among others, PCI DSS requires monitoring of system administrators and third-party contractors accessing the bank’s cardholder-related IT systems. That’s why the bank’s security experts required a solution capable to record all configuration changes made by administrators and IT outsourcing partners on these systems. In addition, the bank preferred a solution which had a highly competitive TCO compared to similar solutions on the market.



## The Solution

Alfa Bank started to search for a privileged activity monitoring solution capable to fulfill the above requirements. **“We examined the BalaBit Shell Control Box and ObservelT’s solution, but the functional advantages convinced us to choose SCB in the end.”** – explains Mr. Andrey Fedotov, Head of Information Security of Alfa Bank Kazakhstan.



After the evaluation period, the bank’s IT experts implemented SCB rapidly (within 2 days!). Now SCB is in a production environment protecting dozens of Windows 2003 and 2008 servers, which fall under the PCI DSS-scope and are organized in a common Active Directory domain. In addition, SCB monitors the remote access to Cisco network equipment. Currently, SCB controls and audits the remote access of 20 internal administrators and several third-party engineers.

## Benefits

Alfa Bank leverages SCB as a unique network security solution providing full control and audit of administrative accesses to the bank’s servers and network devices. SCB records (and replays) user working sessions just like a movie without consuming high storage capacity. By recording every keyboard input, the bank can easily identify repeated human errors. SCB helps Alfa Bank to document:



configuration changes,



file transfers and



modifications of executable files.

In addition, the bank’s security staff can easily search in the audit trails to quickly find the root-cause of incidents in troubleshooting or forensics situations. Moreover, they can easily investigate or even prevent damaging actions by employees.

“ SCB is a core component of Alfa Bank’s new Information Security Strategy. The new system significantly increases data security, reduces technological risks and improves the quality of customer service and efficiency of the bank. “  
- concludes Mr. Fedotov.



### About BalaBit

BalaBit IT Security is an innovative information security company, a global leader in the development of privileged activity monitoring, trusted logging and proxy-based gateway technologies to help protect customers against internal and external threats and meet security and compliance regulations. BalaBit is also known as “the logging company”, based on the company’s flagship product, the open source log server application, which is used by more than 1 000 000 installations worldwide and became the globally acknowledged de-facto industry standard.

BalaBit, the fastest-growing IT Security company in the Central European region according to the Deloitte Technology Fast 50 (2012, 2013) list, has local offices in France, Germany, Russia, and in the USA, and cooperates with partners worldwide. Our R&D and global support centers are located in Hungary, Europe.

More information: [www.balabit.com](http://www.balabit.com)



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