Nominee: Blancco UK Ltd

Nomination title: Blancco Integrated Cloud Erasure Solutions

The Challenge

With the large scale shift from physical to virtualised IT infrastructure across all market sectors, there is a substantial challenge to ensure that organisations can easily continue with their current IT security policies when moving their systems to the Cloud.

When it comes to secure data erasure simply deleting virtual machines and Datastores does not ensure that the data is erased. With regulatory legislation and guidelines such as the Data Protection Act, HIPAA, PCI DSS, and ISO 27001, there is a defined requirement for data to be securely erased using a certified solution with a comprehensive audit trail.

The challenge for Blancco has been to ensure that organisations can erase their cloud hosted data both on demand and in an automated capacity, with the guarantee of 100% secure data erasure, and with the same level of reporting standards as currently exists for their physical IT assets.

Beyond this a further challenge has been to ensure that the secure erasure solutions provided meet all IS5, Government and other regulatory and compliance standards. In the UK for example there is a specific requirement when seeking IL3 accreditation for cloud services provided to the government under the G-Cloud framework, that requires the use of a secure and auditable data erasure process to be implemented by the cloud provider. Blancco have worked with various G-Cloud providers in order to assist in their IL3 accreditation, and our erasure software has been recommended by the Pan Government Accreditation service (CESG) as a suitable solution for securely erasing data that is stored in the cloud.

The upcoming EU Data legislation changes which include regulations such as 'The right to be forgotten' (allowing for any person to request that data relating to them is securely deleted with an audit trail), is a major concern for all cloud providers and end user organisations with over 250 employees. With fines of up to 5% of global annual turnover per breach of these regulations, Blancco's cloud erasure solutions can ensure legislative compliance with all aspects of secure erasure and auditing. This legislation requires serious data security actions to be undertaken by both end user organisations (data controllers), as well as the cloud providers who store data under their control (data processors).

A recent publication by PwC* highlights two key areas that all organisations over 250 employees need to consider with regards to the new EU regulations on data protection:

Quote from PwC publication:

"Evidence of compliance: This is a major change and requires organisations to be proactive."

"Organisations will need to demonstrate what policies and procedures are in place and how they monitor compliance."

Blancco Solution:

Blancco's tamper-proof and verifiable reports are an essential part of compliance, regulatory and legal auditing requirements. Our cloud erasure software generates comprehensive erasure reports which can be integrated with the Blancco Management Console for a complete data erasure audit solution.

Quote from PwC publication:

"The right to be forgotten: Deletion of stored information that is no longer necessary will need to be undertaken proactively."

"Data portability: People will be able to move their personal data from one company to another, especially around the cloud."

Blancco Solution:

Blancco's cloud erasure solutions can enable both the manual and automated erasure of data from all types of virtual IT infrastructure.

Integration of Blancco's cloud erasure software within your current virtualisation management solution will enable an efficient process when users migrate away from their cloud services and need their data to be erased.

* The publication cited above can be downloaded at: http://download.pwc.com/ie/pubs/2014-pwc-ireland-new-eu-data-protection-legislation-12-08-2014.pdf

The Solutions

Building on Blancco's portfolio of market leading secure data erasure solutions and working as a Technology Alliance Partner with VMware, Blancco has developed solutions for Windows Hyper-V, VMware and Citrix Xen virtualization platforms, as well as other virtualization providers.

Our cloud erasure solutions provide a complete solution package that enables organisations to securely erase virtual machines and virtual drives with a simple process which can also be integrated within the management system of their virtualization platform if required.

In addition we provide erasure management software to cloud providers, enabling them to provide a value added service to their customers in the form of a 'Data Erasure as a Service' (DEaaS) offering.

This allows cloud users to erase virtual machines on demand and in line with their current on-board and off-board cloud service processes.

Tangible Benefits

Through the use of Blancco cloud erasure software, both cloud users and cloud providers can achieve security benefits in a number of ways:

Cloud Users:

⬜ Ensure EU legislation and Data Protection Act compliance

⬜ Erase virtual machines and/or dedicated LUNs on demand and in line with on-board/off-board processes

⬜ Maintain a robust IT security policy

⬜ Use the global leading data erasure solutions with 100% guarantee of erasure and a full audit trail

Cloud Providers:

⬜ Provide a 'value-add service', enabling users to have 'Data Erasure on demand' as a Service

⬜ Ensure all data is securely removed from their cloud storage systems at either the virtual or physical level

⬜ Ensure EU legislation and other regulatory compliance

iomart Hosting recently benefited from Blancco's secure cloud erasure software when a key government customer of theirs asked for their cloud hosted data to be securely erased. Iomart's customer had used Blancco on their physical IT assets for some years and wanted the same level of erasure and associated reporting available to them when having their cloud data erased by their cloud provider, in this case iomart Hosting.

Blancco provided iomart Hosting with the complete range of cloud erasure software, enabling them the ability to target and securely erase individual virtual machines as well as securely erasing the entire LUN(s) which had been dedicated to the customer.

Having chosen the solution option that best suited both iomart Hosting and their customer they then performed the erasure without the need for downtime of the hardware storing the cloud hosted data, and generated a detailed erasure report at the end of the process.

Why nominee should win

•   Blancco offers the world's only secure cloud data erasure software that integrates with major virtualization platforms for on-demand erasure requirements.

•   Blancco cloud erasure software can be fully automated, providing a guarantee of erasure for virtual machines and virtual drives.

•   Blancco cloud erasure software meets IS5 requirements providing a key element for cloud providers to meet Pan Government Accreditation standards, allowing the provision of IL3 G-Cloud services.

•   Blancco cloud erasure software provides a robust solution for addressing significant aspects of the upcoming EU Data Protection legislation changes.

•   Blancco cloud erasure software generates detailed post-erasure reporting that exceeds Government compliance standards.