As the world becomes more interconnected, consumer expectations for the protection of personal financial information continues to increase. A layered approach to information security can help minimize risks and vulnerabilities to your financial institution.

Fiserv works to keep clients current through diverse, layered security solutions and innovative technologies that help detect and prevent financial crime. We also stay ahead of emerging trends and are actively involved in developing and leading industry best practices. This includes contributing expertise as a founding member of the Sheltered Harbor initiative, a proactive initiative undertaken by the U.S. financial services industry to improve sector-wide resilience.

Sheltered Harbor was created to protect consumers, financial institutions and public confidence in the financial system if a catastrophic event like a cyberattack causes critical systems – including backups – to fail.

The primary goal of the organization is to extend the industry’s capabilities to securely store and restore account data, should the need arise. Implementing the Sheltered Harbor standard prepares institutions to provide consumers timely access to balances and funds in a worst-case scenario.

We encourage your financial institution to participate in Sheltered Harbor for an additional layer of protection, in addition to your existing disaster recovery and business continuity plans, to ensure that critical customer and account records can survive a cyber data destruction attack.

**Data Safeguard**

Data Safeguard from Fiserv, a Sheltered Harbor Solution, provides file management services necessary for participation in the Sheltered Harbor initiative. The solution currently consists of data extracts from our U.S. bank platforms (Cleartouch®, DNA®, Precision®, Premier® and Signature®) that comply with the Sheltered Harbor standards, as well as a utility that accomplishes prescribed data validation and encryption, enabling the secure storage of this data in the event it is needed for restoration of a financial institution’s customer and account data.

Data Safeguard will additionally support other Sheltered Harbor core elements:

**Data Vaulting**

Data vaulting involves the nightly backup of critical account data in the Sheltered Harbor standard format. The data is encrypted, unchangeable and completely separated from your institution’s infrastructure, including all backups. Institutions can manage their own data vault or use a service provider.
Resiliency Planning

Resiliency planning includes documentation of key decision making and business processes to be activated in case of a Sheltered Harbor event, in which all other options to restore critical systems have failed. Institutions also designate a restoration platform to be used to retrieve data from the vault in order to restore funds access to accountholders.

Certification

Certification is a critical component of the Sheltered Harbor initiative. Participants adopt a robust set of prescribed safeguards and controls, which are independently audited for compliance with the Sheltered Harbor standard. Institutions will receive Sheltered Harbor certification as well as a seal than be used to communicate their efforts to protect consumer financial account data.

Benefits of Joining Sheltered Harbor

By joining Sheltered Harbor, you will become part of a community of your peers focused on ensuring a standardized industry approach to managing the security and availability of your customer and account data. This cooperative model will allow rapid restoration of your customers’ account data after a significant cyber event. You will be able to tell your regulators and your customers that you are participating with other financial institutions in a collaborative effort to protect their data. To fund this effort, Sheltered Harbor charges participant fees based on a financial institution’s number of accounts and total deposits. To join Sheltered Harbor, visit https://shelteredharbor.org/.

Connect With Us

For more information about Data Safeguard, call 800-872-7882, email getsolutions@fiserv.com or visit fiserv.com.