

KEY FACTS - AF BLAKEMORE & SPAR

- ▶ AF Blakemore currently supplies more than 700 stores across England and Wales
- ▶ Following the acquisition of Tates Ltd in 1994, AF Blakemore also has a strong “own-stores” division encompassing more than 200 SPAR shops
- ▶ Around 5,500 people are employed by the company, with a turnover in excess of £800 million per year
- ▶ As a tier 1 merchant, AF Blakemore is subject to the PCI DSS 2.0 and must be audited for compliance every year by a registered PCI DSS QSA
- ▶ PCI DSS V2 11.2.2 and 11.3 mandates that quarterly external vulnerability scans and annual external and internal penetration testing must be performed
- ▶ However, big savings can be made where the estate can be shown to be maintained in a provably hardened state, meaning that just a small, statistical sample of stores needs to be scanned to prove all stores remain hardened (PCI DSS 2.0 Report Section 2)
- ▶ In summary, NNT was able to save an estimated £200K per annum by reducing the vulnerability scanning requirements scope

AF BLAKEMORE SAVES AN ESTIMATED £200K IN ASV SCANNING COSTS

In common with other retailers around the world, PCI DSS has been a significant headache during the last few years since its introduction in 2004.

Retail is a business sector that always works on tight margins and cost control for any IT investment is subject to close scrutiny with value for money and return on investment carefully assessed.

There are seldom any shortcuts when it comes to security, especially when under PCI DSS Validation Requirements, Tier 1 Merchants (those transacting more than 6 million transactions each year) must be independently audited for compliance with the standard by an authorized Qualified Security Assessor (QSA).

AF Blakemore needed to balance the need to fully observe all sections of the PCI DSS mandate, while maintaining the highest levels of security and integrity of IT Systems, whilst at the same time minimizing expenditure and resource requirements - this is where NNT have been able to help.

“When we looked at ASV scanning cost projections for our estate the numbers were potentially huge” says Jim Curtis, PCI DSS Consultant for AFB. *“The other requirements for PCI DSS such as reviewing and backing up event logs, file integrity monitoring and device hardening were already looking to be expensive too, but the NNT solution solved everything for us”*

“NNT Change Tracker was recently awarded a maximum 5 out of 5 in Secure Computing’s Group Test and combined with NNT Log Tracker, provides PCI DSS Merchant’s with the most cost-effective and easy to use Compliance Management solution available”
Russell Willcox Chairman NNT

Using built-in PCI DSS device hardening templates and continuous configuration state tracking ensures that EPOS and Back Office servers remain ‘hardened’ at all times. Crucially, this means that in terms of their PCI DSS vulnerability scanning obligations, AFB need only scan a small percentage of store sites, saving money and time without any compromise to security.

Jim Curtis concludes *“We estimate savings of 200k a year by taking this approach”*

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About NNT

NNT build the world’s best solutions for compliance auditing, security management and tracking & managing change. NNT specialize in PCI DSS Compliance, File Integrity Monitoring, Security Information and Event Management, Vulnerability Scanning and Network Change & Configuration Management. All NNT solutions are affordable and easy to use.