

McKesson Builds Secure, Compliant Private Cloud

Industry

– Healthcare/Pharmaceutical

Snapshot

– HyTrust CloudControl™ helps enable secure administrative multi-tenancy

for McKesson's private cloud initiative

– With HyTrust, McKesson simplified compliance with regulations like HIPAA and SOX for its virtualized infrastructure

– McKesson has improved visibility and control of its private cloud with strong separation of duties, granular logging and auditing of administrative actions, and hypervisor configuration hardening



About McKesson

McKesson, one of the nation's largest pharmaceutical companies and is listed number 14 on the 2014 Fortune 500. Founded in 1933, McKesson supports \$122B in revenue and has 43,500 employees worldwide.

As the company continues to grow, McKesson's recognized the need to respond to changing IT demands: clients and business divisions needed more agility and the freedom to pursue new business models quickly, without the delay often introduced by procuring and configuring physical servers required to support these initiatives.

Consequently, McKesson developed a vision for OneCloud – an innovative private cloud that would enable secure consolidation of multiple data centers while adding valuable agility to its business. But virtualization introduces new security concerns, and the company recognized the critical importance of ensuring strong data security as well as maintaining compliance with regulations like the Health Information Privacy and Portability Act (HIPAA), PCI and SOX. The company was highly aware of the implications should it experience a data breach, and wanted to put appropriate defense measures in place.

Security drivers

Troy Casey is an Information Security Architect at McKesson, responsible for driving security initiatives and who specializes in virtualization and cloud security. "Years ago, when I first started to see broad scale deployment of virtualization, it became apparent that we needed to think more about the emerging security considerations for these concentrated environments," said Casey.

“When we began to build private cloud, we determined it was easier and far less risky to build security in from the beginning, than to retrofit security after the fact.”

Troy Casey, McKesson Information Security Architect

As it prepared to build its OneCloud infrastructure, McKesson conducted a security audit, turning up three primary compliance and security concerns:

- **Shared local administrator accounts:** McKesson’s VMware-based virtual infrastructure did not provide the granularity to report which administrators performed—or tried to perform – certain actions, an area crucial for HIPAA compliance.
- **Overly broad administrator access:** McKesson – like most organizations – was applying Active Directory admin groups to virtualization admins, which meant all domain admins had access to the virtual infrastructure, even if they didn’t need it. This created privacy and compliance concerns, as well as concerns about the potential for accidental misconfiguration.
- **ESXi security hardening compliance:** Leveraging VMware’s hypervisor hardening guidelines, McKesson had invested in building their own hardening best practices, but lacked a method to track or alert on divergence as well as the information necessary to remediate. Casey was familiar with HyTrust because the software had already been deployed to address the needs of a specific business unit whose virtualized applications would be handling HIPAA-regulated data, so he began to explore how it could address security concerns within OneCloud.

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McKesson OneCloud: a secure, private cloud

OneCloud will offer a true self-service portal for provisioning resources, with huge agility benefits. For example, leveraging VMware tools like NSX and vCAC, McKesson can provision a full Hadoop cluster in just over an hour, instead of days or weeks.

And with HyTrust in place to ensure compartmentalization, secure administrative controls, and enable compliance, even production and regulated applications can be provisioned on OneCloud.

Why McKesson chose HyTrust CloudControl

HyTrust CloudControl is a virtual appliance that functions as a transparent proxy, deployed on the management plane between administrators and VMware vCenter. CloudControl provides highly granular administrator authentication, but more importantly, the software provides policy-based authorization and monitoring of all administrative requests, in addition to platform hardening.

Benefits of HyTrust

- **Visibility:** McKesson is subject to internal and external audits, and HyTrust provides visibility and logging of administrator actions that were previously untraceable.
- **Separation of duties:** This critical best practice is often lost when companies virtualize. HyTrust supports granular Role-Based Access Controls and labeling which help prevent overly broad admin access. Before HyTrust, McKesson had simply been using Active Directory Administrative Groups to manage access, which meant that all domain admins had much broader access than they needed—an obvious security concern.
- **Configuration hardening:** McKesson had written a hardening guide based on VMware best practices, but there was no way of auditing compliance. HyTrusts Hardening Templates allow McKesson to provide proof that hypervisor configuration is in compliance, and should it deviate, administrators are proactively notified so they can remediate quickly.
- **Secondary approval:** HyTrust allows McKesson to define policies and workflow so that sensitive operations require approval before these actions can be taken. By requiring a second set of eyes, HyTrust can help prevent mistakes that

might result in accidental application or system downtime, as well as enhance security and prevent a bad actor from malicious activity or theft.

- **Troubleshooting:** HyTrust provides detailed log information that is not provided by vSphere, including who made—or even attempted—a change, which attribute was changed, from where, and more. HyTrust also integrates with SIEM tools to simplify the rollup of this information.

With HyTrust, McKesson has the policy-based controls that will allow security to scale as OneCloud grows.

To learn more about HyTrust solutions, visit <http://www.hytrust.com/whyhytrust>, or call us to schedule a demonstration