OKERA

OKERA ENABLES FORTUNE 500 PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY TO PROTECT PATIENTS' DATA DURING DRUG DISCOVERY

Executive Summary

This Fortune 500 Company is a global biopharmaceutical company with a mission to discover, develop, and deliver innovative medicines that help patients prevail over serious diseases.

The company deployed Okera's Active Data Access Platform (ODAP) to replace manual access control in its Amazon S3 data lake. In the process, it was able to reap the following benefits.

OKERA BENEFITS

- Secure and segregated access to patients' data from clinical drug trials

- Dynamic obfuscation to protect sensitive data and comply with regulatory requirements such as GDPR, CCPA, and HIPAA

- Streamlined access control for multi-data source, multi-tool environment

- Flexibility to onboard more users & use cases in the future such as controlling sensitive HR data

Background

Modern drug discovery necessitates data agility, but PHI must be safeguarded

In today's competitive pharma environment, responsible and agile access to data has become a minimum requirement in order to discover new drugs. The company had clinical data going back twenty years and wanted to give its research team access to information across various drug trials in a fast and secure manner while securing access to patients' protected health information (PHI).

Challenge

Automating data access control to reduce cost, increase flexibility, and meet regulatory requirements

The company built its data lake on Amazon Web Services (AWS). Informatica Enterprise Data Catalog is deployed in production along with a wide variety of analytical tools including Python, R, Domino Data Lab, and Spotfire.

As the data lake grew in both users and size, so did the data engineering efforts and resources needed to secure PHI. Before Okera, the data engineering team had to create many custom copies of datasets based upon the range of required permissions. Additionally, the security model built upon AWS IAM roles was not able to scale and required extensive management. The impact was significant constraints on data usage, and, consequently, drug discovery.

Solution

Unified data access control for all analytic engines and sensitive data protection

After a comprehensive trial period, it became clear that Okera's data access control addressed the challenge of copying datasets, custom access rules, and limited system support. Users now have an immediate view of the data based on their access rights with proper data obfuscation applied and they are able to work within their tool of choice.

In all, the company achieved the following:
* Fine-grained access control at the column, row, and cell level with policies applied dynamically
* Data obfuscation including tokenization and masking
* Faster data discovery with built-in automated crawling
* Integration with Active Directory
* Detailed visibility and audit trail into data lake usage, especially for sensitive data
* Compliance with data privacy regulations

Results

Faster and secure data access to enable drug discovery and innovation

Okera provided an agile way for the company's data engineering team to offer fast, responsible access to its data users in order to develop new drugs. The Okera system, being independent of the cloud platform, will enable the company to future proof its system, and also to address other business demands, including securing access to its HR data.

"Okera gave me back a level of control that I had back in the days of Sharepoint. Business users are coming to me, excited. They now manage data access control down to the individual cell - which has never been done before. Even more compelling is that these policies are immediately applied across all the analytics tools in our ecosystem. As an R&D Team, those capabilities are very, very exciting given their acceleration and impact upon drug innovation."

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, DATA INTEGRATION SERVICES, F500 PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY

ABOUT OKERA

Okera enables the management of data access and governance at scale for today's modern cloud data lakes. Built on the belief that companies can do more with their data, Okera's Active Data Access Platform (ODAP) enables scalable fine-grained data protection and visibility on data lakes for both structured and unstructured data. This allows agility and governance to co-exist, giving data consumers, owners, and stewards the confidence to unlock the power of their data for innovation and growth. ODAP can be implemented and deployed in less than a day, creating immediate value for enterprise organizations. Okera is headquartered in San Francisco and is backed by Bessemer Venture Partners, Felicis Ventures, and Capital One Growth Ventures. Learn more at www.okera.com or contact us at info@okera.com

Interested in learning more about securing your data lake for [AWS](#) or [Azure](#)? We can help!