

# European Bank Achieves Proactive Data Security, Compliance using ABAC

## Executive Summary

The primary driver for this project was to achieve compliance with a Personal Data Protection Law and to prepare for future regulatory challenges. In addition, the bank's authorization was historically domain-specific, meaning policies were defined, governed, and implemented by the application owners only. This approach delivered adequate functionality within silos but no control and no transparency across the enterprise. The bank wanted a central and standardized solution.

“  
**ABAC has given us the ability to be proactive. We are well positioned to handle all future regulatory requirements quickly and cost effectively.**  
*- Head of Access Control*  
 ”

### Our Client

The bank is among the ten largest universal banks in Europe and has expertise across a wide range of products, services, and solutions within banking, asset management, and insurance.

# Challenges

## Regulation and Compliance

The Personal Data Protection Law mandated that all access to personal data records for citizens needed to be subject to the right purpose and should be logged for audit purposes. The law also stated that the bank's consumers needed the ability to define which bank employees should be denied access to personal records.

When the data protection law was established, the bank consisted of several local banks spread throughout multiple countries. Each bank had multiple, fine-grained authorization engines throughout the organization.

adequate functionality within silos but no control and no transparency (i.e. auditing) across the enterprise. The bank had no control or transparency over who could access what data at a specific time. The bank needed a central and standardized solution to adhere to regulations.

The bank also needed to handle different types of "exceptions", which have been implemented as blacklist (always deny) and whitelists (always permit) policies.

These challenges led to the start of a collaboration between the client and Axiomatics.



*Use Cases Included Policy Evaluation of:*

- *Country and Branch*
- *Employee Roles*
- *Bank Function*
- *Location (physical branch office)*
- *Whitelist*
- *Blacklist*

## Solution

As the best-in-class vendor for policy-based dynamic authorization, Axiomatics was chosen by the bank to help address various specific use cases, and provide a solution that would ultimately provide authorization across the enterprise.

The Axiomatics Policy Server provides dynamic authorization for applications, and is an independent solution which easily integrates with existing Identity and Access Management (IAM) tools. In addition, this suite provides friendly policy authoring and life-cycle management, service administration and monitoring. The Axiomatics Policy Server boasts the industry's most robust Policy Decision Point, meaning better performance and authorization, as well as the capability to do reverse queries, auditing, and reporting.

## The Need for a Standards Model

The bank lacked both a standards model and a cohesive approach to authorization management. All solutions the bank built prior to ABAC worked well in the beginning, but as maintenance and development costs steadily increased, the "matured" solutions quickly became less manageable.

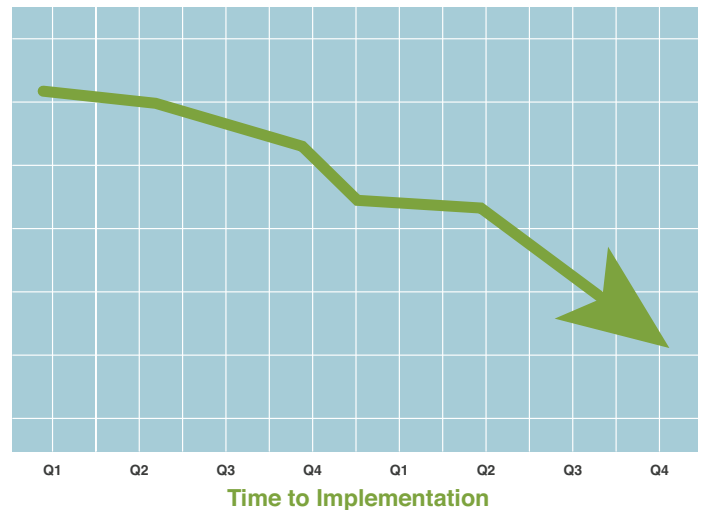
## Decentralized Authorization

For the client, authorization has historically been a domain-specific issue, meaning that policies were defined, governed, and implemented by the application owners only. This approach delivered



## Results and ROI

- ABAC is supporting compliance for Data Protection Law and for the future GDPR (transparency to access)
- The bank has proof of who has accessed what data and when through a central AuthZ decision point
- Real-time reporting to third parties
- Cost reduction for development efforts
- Approximately 20% cost reduction for maintenance
- Easy to on-board applications and services and even easier to change policies when change is needed



Find out how you can secure your information assets without hindering your business. Contact [webinfo@axiomatics.com](mailto:webinfo@axiomatics.com) today to learn more about our dynamic authorization solutions.



Axiomatics is the premier vendor of dynamic authorization delivered through Attribute Based Access Control (ABAC) solutions. With a global customer base within healthcare, finance, manufacturing, insurance, media and the public sector, the bank offers proven authorization solutions that can be tailored to meet the demands of virtually any organization.

The bank is headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden and has offices across the US. Axiomatics is a driving force behind dynamic access control through its suite of industry standard products. These products are utilized by Fortune 500 companies and federal government agencies to balance the need for information sharing and the protection of critical assets and Intellectual Property.

525 W Monroe St., Suite 2310  
Chicago, IL 60661, USA  
Tel: +1 (312) 374-3443

Västmannagatan 4  
S-111 24 Stockholm, Sweden  
Tel: +46 (0)8 51 510 240