



# CASE STUDY: ABILA

## MAKING GOOD CHOICES WITH **INFRASTRUCTURE AND SECURITY IN THE CLOUD**

Non-profit organizations, governments and associations use Abila software to manage their memberships, raise funds, manage grants and much more. As a result, Abila stores customer data, much of it confidential in nature. Making sure the data stored in their products is secure is of critical importance. Additionally, PCI compliance is essential for merchant offerings.

Abila uses Rackspace hosted services for their private cloud implementation, knowing full well that Rackspace delivers world-class IT infrastructures with excellent managed services and underlying security to protect the application and infrastructure.

However, as Abila sees their diverse customer base steadily growing in the private cloud, they know there will be emerging threats. That's when the company determined the most useful security layer to add to their defense in depth strategy was an intrusion detection system, or IDS, to ensure multiple layers exist between the company's hosted products and potential attackers. The Abila team evaluated several options, including open source solutions and other commercial options. Ultimately, the other offerings fell short due to demands on staff time to manually review logs and respond to events, or lack of a robust security solution to protect the network layer.

Abila chose to work with Rackspace and Alert Logic and implement Alert Logic Threat Manager for intrusion detection.



### ABOUT

Abila combines decades of industry insight with technology know-how to serve more than 8,000 customers across North America. Growing and innovative, Abila MIP Fund Accounting is listed as a Financial Management Solutions Market Pillar in Info-Tech Research Group's 2014 Financial Management Solutions Vendor Landscape report.

### SOLUTIONS

Alert Logic Threat Manager and Alert Logic ActiveWatch: Managed intrusion detection and vulnerability scanning system

Alert Logic Log Manager and Alert Logic LogReview: Managed daily log review service

Alert Logic and Rackspace monitor and manage security so Abila can focus on their core business applications.



Reasons for selecting Alert Logic Threat Manager included:

- Close relationship between Rackspace and Alert Logic: Rackspace could fully implement and deploy Threat Manager in their Rackspace managed environment. Abila could get network protection without having to spend time or resources doing the implementation themselves.
- Rackspace engineers collaborate with Alert Logic to provide ongoing management of Threat Manager: When anything happens in Abila's environment, Rackspace engineers work with Alert Logic security analysts to identify, investigate and mitigate issues, while always keeping Abila apprised of the situation. It lets Abila know they're secure, without having to be hands-on with security management.
- Rackspace manages the IT stack: Internal resources at Abila are dedicated to other projects and services due to the tight integration of Rackspace and Alert Logic.
- Regular updates and alerts: Abila is fully aware of any attacks on their applications or data by getting alerts from Rackspace if and when there's activity. They also see results from internal vulnerability scans.

***BETWEEN RACKSPACE™ AND ALERT LOGIC®, I'M REALLY CONFIDENT IN OUR SECURITY POSTURE. I KNOW THAT THERE IS SOMEONE WATCHING OVER US AND OUR CUSTOMERS. THAT HELPS ME SLEEP AT NIGHT.***

**- Grant Howe, SVP Research & Development**

For Abila, this hands-on security monitoring from Rackspace and Alert Logic delivers considerable peace-of-mind. "While we're fortunate to not have been the victim of a successful attack, I think a big part of that has been because of the layered defenses offered by Rackspace and Alert Logic," said Grant Howe, SVP Research & Development of Abila. "The defense layers are important ... it's like a car alarm where once the robber hears the beep, they know to move on and look for a more vulnerable target. Between Rackspace and Alert Logic, I'm really confident in our security posture. I know that there is someone watching over us and our customers. That helps me sleep at night."

## ABOUT RACKSPACE

Rackspace (NYSE: RAX) is the #1 managed cloud company. Its technical expertise and Fanatical Support® allow companies to tap the power of the cloud without the pain of hiring experts in dozens of complex technologies. Rackspace is also the leader in hybrid cloud, giving each customer the best fit for its unique needs — whether on single- or multi-tenant servers, or a combination of those platforms. Rackspace is the founder of OpenStack®, the open-source operating system for the cloud. Based in San Antonio, Rackspace serves more than 200,000 business customers from data centers on four continents. It ranks #29 on Fortune's list of 100 Best Companies to Work For.

[www.rackspace.com](http://www.rackspace.com)

## ABOUT ALERT LOGIC

Alert Logic, the leader in security and compliance solutions for the cloud, provides Security-as-a-Service for on-premises, cloud, and hybrid infrastructures, delivering deep security insight and continuous protection for customers at a lower cost than traditional security solutions. Fully managed by a team of experts, the Alert Logic Security-as-a-Service solution provides network, system and web application protection immediately, wherever your IT infrastructure resides. Alert Logic partners with the leading cloud platforms and hosting providers to protect over 3,000 organizations worldwide. Built for cloud scale, our patented platform stores petabytes of data, analyses over 400 million events and identifies over 50,000 security incidents each month, which are managed by our 24x7 Security Operations Center. Alert Logic, founded in 2002, is headquartered in Houston, Texas, with offices in Seattle, Dallas, Cardiff, Belfast and London. For more information, please visit [www.alertlogic.com](http://www.alertlogic.com).