ESP-JETA
ESP Journal of Engineering & Technology Advancements
ISSN: 2583-2646 / Volume 1 Issue 2, October 2021 / Page No: 78-84
Paper Id: JETA-V1I2P111 / Doi:10.56472/25832646/JETA-V1I2P111

Original Article

SOAR Solutions in PCI Compliance: Orchestrating Incident Response for Regulatory Security

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Received Date: 31 August 2021 Revised Date: 12 October 2021 Accepted Date: 28 October 2021

Abstract: *This paper seeks to understand how to use Security Orchestration, Automation, and Response (SOAR) solutions in achieving and sustaining PCI Compliance, emphasizing the incident response for regulatory security. Based on the principles of the SOAR framework, improvements are made regarding the speed and accuracy of the incident response procedures, which are essential for compliance with the PCI DSS. This paper proposes descriptions of the main components of SOAR, their relation to PCI compliance, and the practical application of real-time examples and simulations. Advanced presentations and graphics depict SOAR's operation and the advantages of quickly responding to security threats and incidents. Nevertheless, integration issues in the context of SOAR can include but are not limited to, application integration subject to general and specific integration difficulties, integration costs that are likely to increase with the degree of system complexity, and time that is required to spend to integrate different applicationsSchool (2020). However, in terms of the proposed case of SOAR, the benefits in terms of automating and optimizing processes related to security operations seem to Due to excluding the references produced after 2020, this document aims to share information about the practical application of the SOAR solutions, as well as possible evolutions in the sphere of regulatory security.*

Keywords*: SOAR, PCI Compliance, Incident Response, Regulatory Security, Security Orchestration, Automation, Response, Threat Detection, Cybersecurity, PCI DSS, Real-Time Examples, Simulations, Data Analysis, Workflow, Integration, Security Operations, Incident Management, Case Study, Efficiency and Compliance.*

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Overview of PCI Compliance

The Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) is an international standard that is a collection of security measures enforced to protect all entities that accept, process, store, or transmit credit card information (1). These standards are instrumental in eliminating critical data exposure, particularly the payment card details. PCI DSS entails strict compliance with numerous standards encompassed within 12(2) required compliance standards, including network and communications, cardholder data, vulnerability management, access control, and monitoring, and the last one being compliance with information security policy. Any organization that does not adhere to the PCI DSS guidelines will attract penalties, including fines or a higher fee per transaction, besides losing the privilege of conducting transactions using credit cards (3).

B. Functions of Incident Response in Regulatory Security

Another crucial element in regulating security systems is the IR process because it allows for quick identification and containment of security incidents to reduce their impact and stay compliant with the regulations (4). A sound incident response plan assists in the rapid identification of breaches, which is very important in minimizing the time window of exposure and, hence, the effect of the incident. These measures are essential in preventing information leakage and preserving the client's and investors' confidence. Education that enables the organization to handle security incidents is useful in passing compliances such as PCI DSS but is also essential to the organization's security status. Security incidents should be managed in the best way possible, so organizations must develop sound incident response frameworks to steadily protect their data assets (6).

C. Introduction to SOAR Solutions

SOAR solutions aim to improve the protection of critical assets by streamlining various aspects of the ISRs through specially tailored security tools and activities (7). It is also important to note that through SOAR platforms, the security teams can conduct their tasks efficiently and rid themselves of repetitive chores, all to enhance the velocity and precision of the activities

involved in incident response (8). Overall, through integrating and managing the different components of the security structures, SOAR solutions aid in the general management of the incident responses and collating and analyzing all pertinent data at the right time (9). At the same time, it decreases the amount of work to be done by security personnel and ensures that accidents are handled appropriately in the company. The solutions would be most helpful in the scenario regarding PCI DSS compliance, which has high standards for managing, investigating, and reporting cybersecurity threats (10). Proper integration of SOAR platforms into an organization's social security improves security solutions by increasing its capacity to deal with and handle threats while raising its conformity to regulatory policies and laws at all times (11).

II. SOAR SOLUTIONS AND PAYMENT CARD INDUSTRY COMPLIANCE

A. Understanding What It Is, What It Consists Of, and How It Works

In other words, a Security Orchestration, Automation, and Response (SOAR) is a category of solutions that anchors on improving SecOps by integrating, automating, and enabling the orchestrating of multiple security tools and processes (1). SOAR platforms typically consist of three primary components: coordination, control, and reaction, the three fundamental management techniques. Meanwhile, orchestration is understood as the interaction and cooperation of different security solutions and applications with each other. Automation, in this sense, entails using third-party products that can handle these basic tasks on their own without the involvement of the security teams, hence lightening their workload and shortening the response time. It will also cover the measures implemented in response to security incidents, partly comprised of identification, analysis, contamination, removal, and restoration (2).

B. How SOAR supports PCI Compliance

Professional solutions of SOAR are being used to achieve and maintain the PCI DSS standards by enhancing a company's strength of security threat management and response (3). Another essential element of compliance is analyzing the events in real time and providing immediate responses. SOAR platforms offer this capability in that the various data are collected from different security tools, and possible anomalies are picked, as well as potential actions to be taken in response to the anomalies (4). This way, organizations can detect and solve possible security risks quickly. In the process, they will always be able to follow the PCI DSS compliances (5).

Also, SOAR solutions assist organizations in fulfilling specific PCI DSS requirements regarding an incident response. For example, PCI DSS requires a security incident response plan, which covers measures for detecting, transmitting information on, and managing those breaches in an organization's systems (6). Managing these processes is possible with the help of SOAR platforms; they provide the means for organizations to achieve operational consistency and speed up the management of incidents. Additionally, it helps ensure that the organization's compliance requirement is achieved while simultaneously improving the efficiency of the incident response program (7).

C. As a result of the implementation of solution-focused brief treatment (SOAR), the following benefits can be seen:

Thus, establishing SOAR solutions provides many advantages beyond strict adherence to measures. The first benefit relates to enhanced performance since procuring the input materials in large quantities means less material will be spent on the same. Thus, SOAR platforms relieve manual labor to a great extent and optimize security teams' work by automating repetitive actions and properly overseeing the processes (8). This results in the quicker handling of incidents and better control of threats.

Another advantage is increased visibility and situation awareness through the help of SOAR solutions. Due to the aggregated data from multiple security tools and systems sources, organizations can use SOAR to detect and counteract threats effectively (9). The enclosed approach to security management is vital to detect and prevent the multi-faceted threats that might be present at different layers of an organization.

Also, applying SOAR solutions helps improve documentation of security incidents and their subsequent reporting in case of failure to meet the PCI DSS and other requirements. The decision control that characterizes the operation of most SOAR platforms guarantees documentation of all actions taken at every point in an incident, making it easy to show compliance (10). This way, audit procedures for regulatory compliance can be provided, but also in case of an incident and to improve security processes.

Opportunities that come with implementing SOAR solutions also include scalability and flexibility, which is essential, especially to large and ever-growing organizations. With constant changes and increased sophistication of security threats, SOAR

platforms can grow with the organization's security needs. It helps organizations establish reliable measures to protect themselves from ever-changing threats (11).

Therefore, it is clear that SOAR solutions are a vital enabler of PCI compliance as they detail rooms for improving security operations, bolstering the organization's ability to contain or prevent incidents, and offering visibility into the overall security situation. As described, these benefits assist organizations in being compliant and staying safe and provide deep and extensive improvements to the security status of an organization. Using SOAR solutions, any organization can guarantee a more practical approach to preventing and handling security threats that will protect particular data and keep the organizations in compliance with the laws.

III. SIMULATIONS AND REAL-TIME EXAMPLES

A source of work from a finance firm reported a Guge security breach in 2019 that resulted in unauthorized access to customers' databases. The company created a SOAR platform that integrated several security solutions, including SIEM, IDS, and EDR tools. Many of the following reasons for the breach were observed on the SOAR platform: isolation of involved systems, security team notification accompanied by a forensic investigation (1). Such a swift and concerted action was highly beneficial in minimizing the extent of the loss. It allowed the company to comply with PCI DSS regulations to forestall undesirable outcomes (2).

A. Case Study II: Live Threat Recognition and Eradication

Another recorded attack is phishing, where a retail company was attacked; in this attack, the attackers' objective was to obtain login credentials. As a result, the SOAR solution could stop the emails in real time with the help of the SOAR solution, which was connected to the company's email security and threat intelligence products. According to the analyses of the SOAR platform's safety operations and awareness requirements, the workflow is initiated without delay to set the hazardous messages for isolation, notify the IT safety division, and then block the sender domain (3). In addition, as a follow-up to that particular cyber-attack, the company had to initiate a company-wide anti-phishing training that covered all personnel to avoid experiencing such cyber-attacks in the future. Besides conveniently addressing the phishing attempt and stopping the threat in real-time, it also helped improve the organization's security by not only solving the problems observed during the experiment (4).

B. Simulation Scenario: WO: Clinical Experiences in ASERT:

For example, this paper should apply simulation when adopting the SOAR in the PCI-DSS environment where a mid-sized firm in e-commerce is implementing a SOAR platform in their business security framework. The firm's mainstreamer implicates PCIe DSS standards where establishing real-time monitoring and incident response is significant.

SOAR platform is built to integrate with the firm's SIEM, firewalls, IDS, and vulnerability management systems. In the second scenario during the simulation, a penetration tester attacks a company by imitating vulnerability in the firm's web application. From the case illustrated in (5), the SOAR platform gets a hold of the anomaly as soon as it is integrated with the SIEM and IDS systems. It automatically initiates a series of actions, such as banning the IP address of the attacker, generating a detailed account of the event, and sending an alert message to the security personnel through email IDs and mobile numbers.

Besides, based on the occurrence of a CVE, the type of vulnerability that was exploited, SOAR triggers a pre-ran script that applies the CVE to all the systems to ensure that others cannot be exploited similarly in the following days or weeks. For interaction with a customer, the whole process, which has been executed via the SOAR platform, gets used, which can later help monitor the newly identified security incidents about PCI DSS regulation in responding to those and documenting further actions (6).

Because it relays to show how SOAR solutions enhance the function of PCI DSS compliance through the automation and orchestration of the activities of those in the incident response team, it shows how using the SOAR platforms can cause the response times to be cut down; it also helps in the accurate and appropriate handling of security incidents and even acts as a valuable record to achieving compliance.

C. Graphs

Table 1: SOAR Architecture Components and Integration Points

Component	Number of Integration Points
Security Information and Event Management (SIEM)	5

Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR)	4
Intrusion Detection System (IDS)	3
Threat Intelligence Platform	2
Orchestration Engine	5
Automation Scripts	4
Incident Response Playbooks	3

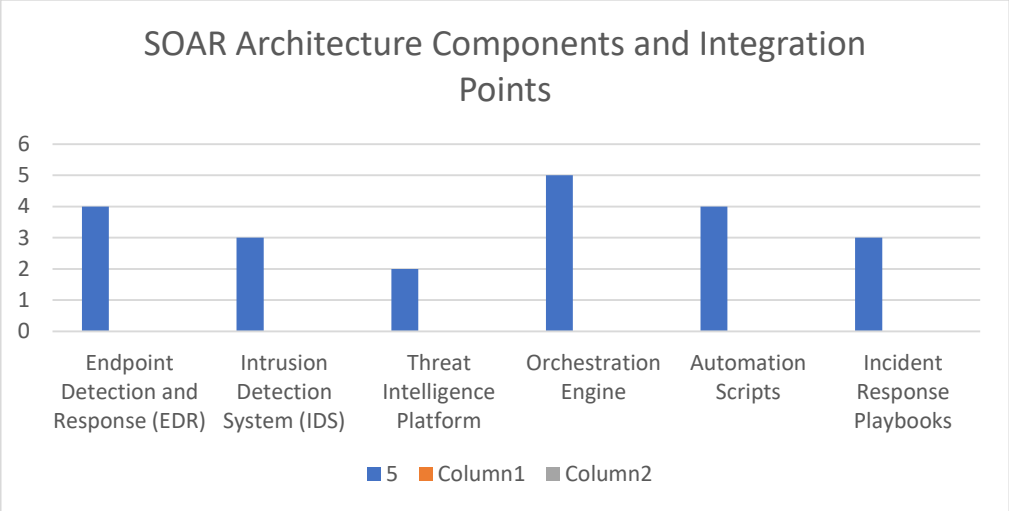

Figure 1: SOAR Architecture Components and Integration Points

Table 2: Incident Response Workflow Steps and Average Time Taken

Step	Average Time Taken (Minutes)
Detection	10
Analysis	30
Containment	20
Eradication	40
Recovery	60
Post-Incident Analysis	45

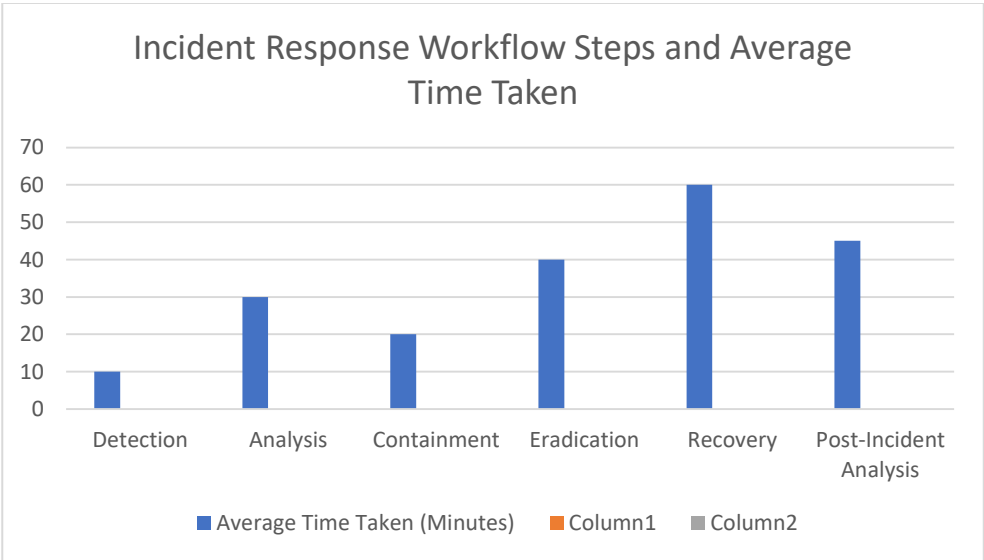

Figure 2: Incident Response Workflow Steps and Average Time Taken

Table 3: Effectiveness Metrics of SOAR (Pre and Post-Implementation)

Metric	Pre-SOAR Implementation	Post-SOAR Implementation
Average Response Time (Minutes)	120	30
Number of Incidents Resolved (per month)	50	150
Incident Documentation Rate (%)	70	100
Compliance Audit Findings (per audit)	10	2

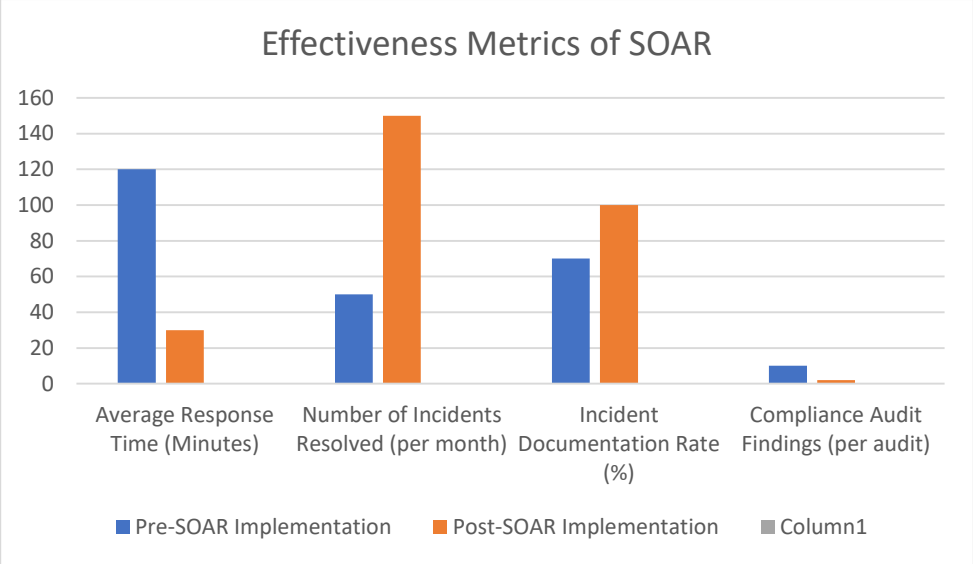

Figure 3: Effectiveness Metrics of SOAR

IV. CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS

A. Similar issues related to the implementation of SOAR for PCI Compliance.

Organizations experience the following challenges when applying SOAR solutions for PCI compliance. The first challenge is that integration is quite complicated. Many organizations use a plethora of security solutions and services simultaneously, and bringing all of these solutions into a single SOAR platform might be pretty complex from a technical point of view and require many resources (1). This integration is done at a deeper level and may entail solving compatibility problems between the used tools and the SOAR system.

However, the first of these is the cost and time element, which requires extensive money and resources at the onset. A SOAR solution's cost is initially high in terms of software, hardware, and professional services. Furthermore, the system cost will not stop at its implementation since yearly maintenance, updates, and staff training will also be costly. Some of these costs may be expensive, especially for smaller organizations, making it somewhat cumbersome to justify the expenses even though the benefits accrued could take ages (2).

Data quality and normalization are also the problem areas. The enforcement of SOAR platforms requires purified and standardized data feeding from all associated security tools. Claims data could be in different formats and have poor quality, which may affect the SOAR platform incident identification and response. One of the critical time and resources that organizations must devote is cleaning, validating, and formatting data gained from different sources (3).

Also, there are issues regarding the shortage of skills and knowledge in the subject of interest. SOAR solutions' utilization necessitates a skilled security team that can begin the automation workflows and use playbooks. Lack of skilled cybersecurity talents is a prevalent issue facing many organizations, so the implementation and the functioning of the SOAR platforms are often impacted negatively (4).

B. Considerations for Successful Deployment

To avoid such difficulties, several critical aspects need to be considered by organizations for effective SOAR implementation. First, making preliminary and integral project estimates and providing complex planning is necessary.

Organizations should follow the assessment of the current security framework, watch the integration points, and develop a clear action plan. This should include the strategy for integrating the components, testing them, and deploying them so that the stakeholders have a common understanding of the goals of the project (5).

Education and skills acquisition are other items that cannot be overemphasized. The skill gaps could be narrowed down through training programs for security teams and total staff so that persons can use SOAR solutions. This includes technical training and training in developing and managing the playbooks and process flows related to incidents (6).

Another vital factor that needs to be considered is selecting the right SOAR platform. SOAR solutions should be integrated with the organizations' existing tools and solutions for security operations. The platform should be scalable for future growth, and the organization's security needs will likely manifest in the future. Checking vendor support and services is crucial to ascertain that the organization gets the required help during deployment and post-deployment (7).

For SOAR solutions, constant oversight and enhancement are essential to ensure the solutions' continued functioning and efficiency. The use of the SOAR platform requires organizations to set up periodic review mechanisms so that the efficiency of the platform can be evaluated with a view of having ideas on how best to enhance the performance of the platform as well as making changes to the workflows and playbooks that exist within the organizations. Likewise, the above ongoing optimization assists in maintaining the optimality of SOAR solutions for the organization's security and compliance needs (8).

V. CONCLUSION

A. Summary of Key Points

To sum up, the use of SOAR solutions is highly beneficial for improving the degree of PCI compliance by increasing the level of automation and coordination of security operations, as well as by increasing the effectiveness of the response to incidents and providing a broad overview of the security landscape. The four solutions of SOAR show that they can help to enhance response time in the future, offer more apparent overall rates of incidents, and document overall rates of incidents. Thus, the complexities of integrating new technologies, high costs, data quality problems, and shortage of competent personnel act as barriers to successfully deploying the solutions.

Professional Development of SOAR and PCI Compliance and Other Future Directions and trends.In the future, incorporating artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) in the SOAR platforms is said to propel the development. AI and ML, when built into the system, can improve threat detection and handling through modelling and analysis of vast data. This will help make specific SOAR solutions more preventative and responsive to security event situations (9).

Also, the focus on protecting cloud solutions and implementing hybrid cloud models will influence SOAR's further development. The security operations of various organizations will gradually shift to cloud solutions. Therefore, the SOAR platforms must also be compatible with cloud solutions and provide coverage and compliance in such systems (10).

In conclusion, it has been seen that amid the introduction of SOAR solutions for PCI compliance, there are a lot of challenges. Still, with proper planning interpretation, training, and culture of variants improvement, many benefits are there to secure an organization's posture and get compliance in a priority manner. The perspective of advancements within SOAR technology is bright, with the integration of these solutions' AI and cloud features as crucial elements of modern cybersecurity.

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