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SBS
SAFE BANKING SYSTEMS

Finding Bad Guys While Maintaining the Highest Compliance and Security Makes Safe Banking Systems Unique

SBS wields technology as a highly effective weapon to outthink criminals, partnering with Rackspace for reliability and scale.

Since 1999, Mineola, NY-based Safe Banking Systems (SBS) has been thinking ahead of the risks to combat financial crime and find the "bad guys." SBS' specialized anti-money laundering (AML) and compliance solutions enable organizations to uncover money laundering, fraud, terrorist financing and other criminal activity before it poses a serious threat.

A specialist to financial services and other industries — and a Rackspace customer since 2006 — SBS provides clients with a holistic framework for managing enterprise-wide risk in a data driven environment.

SBS was recently included for the third consecutive year in the Chartis RiskTech 100® report, a comprehensive study of the world's most significant risk and compliance technology companies. "We took a look at the 36 companies above us in the list based in the U.S. and their number of employees range from thousands, to more than 100,000; we have an employee count of 28 but what isn't on that list is that we have thousands of Rackers working with us, too," said David Schiffer, Safe Banking Systems Founder and President.

PROACTIVELY INDENTIFYING RISK

SBS helps identify and monitor risk across

> "I have tough tech guys who are quite demanding when it comes to production. They have been very happy over the years with the support we receive from Rackspace."
>
> **David Schiffer**
> Founder and President, Safe Banking Systems

the enterprise to protect financial assets and reputations while ensuring full compliance with the USA PATRIOT Act, OFAC and BSA.

The company has developed a methodology, part of it patented, that finds the bad guys in ways that other companies haven't been able to achieve.

"We have customers who have 100 million clients, so matching that against lists of bad guys in the millions, how do you get value out of that?" Schiffer asked. "How do you find the bad guys?"

Sometimes they're hiding in plain sight. In 2009, SBS identified six names, listed in public Federal Aviation Administration registry data, of people who retained federal aviation licenses in spite of being suspected of crimes that posed a risk to national security. The FAA and TSA revoked these licenses within 24 hours of the news going public.

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Subsequently, while working with the same FAA registry, SBS discovered the name Fernando Zevallos, a drug kingpin in Peru also licensed by FAA as a pilot. SBS began analyzing public data associated with Zevallos, who was already imprisoned on narcotics and money-laundering charges. "Two years later, we found his Miami-based attorney who had laundered $500 million for him — and we found him in two of our customer sites. That was certainly an eye-opener for us and for our customers," recalled Schiffer.

SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF SAFE BANKING SYSTEMS

Rackspace has helped SBS significantly in reaching compliance goals, enabling the company to obtain approval from major institutions with some of the industry's strictest compliance and highest security requirements. "Rackspace's security controls and reputation as an SSAE 16 Certified Provider has been a tremendous factor in our success," said Schiffer.

Recently, SBS worked with Rackspace on a large VNX migration, requiring six months of joint meetings and planning, including (as the migration deadline drew near) biweekly meetings and consecutive Saturdays spent with the Rackspace team.

"The migration went through without a hitch," said Schiffer. "Rackspace's offering and ability to allow us to scale has been the key reason behind our success in the hosted environment."

SBS is no stranger to Rackspace Fanatical Support. "My tech staff are tough guys who have absolutely given the most wonderful praises to Rackspace Fanatical Support," Schiffer said. "Recently we received a call from Rackspace that said, 'One of your drives has gone down.' They actually had it back up and running within an hour, before we would have even known it was down."

With the relationship between SBS and Rackspace now approaching its second decade, Schiffer sees a number of upcoming items for collaboration. "One of our main initiatives for this year for Rackspace is to move our development and QA sites to Rackspace, again for security, reliability and scalability. We are also looking at a hyper-V situation and we're going to be signing up for a POC very soon."