SHELTERED®
H A R B O R

Sheltered Harbor protects
public confidence in the financial system if a
catastrophic event like a cyber attack causes your
critical systems, including your backups, to fail.

Who We Are

Sheltered Harbor is a not-for-profit, industry-led initiative that was developed to protect customers, institutions and public confidence in the financial system itself in case of a catastrophic event like a cyber attack.

The Sheltered Harbor standard combines secure data vaulting with a comprehensive resiliency plan. In a worst-case scenario, activating Sheltered Harbor provides your customers timely access to their funds.

The standard itself was developed by hundreds of subject matter experts drawn from the ranks of its participants. By joining and actively participating in Sheltered Harbor working groups and forums, you can directly influence the evolution of this important initiative.

Sheltered Harbor is structured as a subsidiary of FS-ISAC (Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Center) with an independent board of directors. Its primary functions are to establish and evolve the standard, promote adoption by the industry, support implementation, and ensure adherence.

Participation is open to financial institutions of all sizes including banks, credit unions, brokerages, asset managers, industry associations and service providers.

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Resiliency When All Else Fails

In today's connected world, cyber resilience is critical to any financial institution's survival. Cyber threats are unpredictable, ever changing, and evolving from being mainly financially motivated to include political motivations, sometimes by highly sophisticated state actors.

A paralyzing attack that prevents customers from accessing their accounts could not only destroy an institution, it could cause panic that infects the entire financial system.

How can you prepare for data destruction events like these? Sheltered Harbor is your backup of last resort for an attack that causes all your critical systems— including your existing backups—to fail.

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How It Works

There are two critical elements: data vaulting and resiliency planning. Vaulting your data each day is the only way to ensure you have the data to restore should you activate the Sheltered Harbor Resiliency Plan in case of a devastating attack.

After you join Sheltered Harbor, you'll follow the process shown below for implementing the standards.

Initiation and Planning

Ensure all program elements are in place: team, budgets, tracking and reporting mechanisms.

Data Vault

Back up critical customer account data each night in the Sheltered Harbor standard format, either managing your own vault or using our community of participating service providers.

The data vault must be encrypted, unchangeable and completely separated from the rest of your infrastructure, including all backups.

Lay the groundwork for developing your Sheltered Harbor Resiliency Plan.

SHELTERED® HARBOR
Data Vaulting Certification

Resiliency Plan

Prepare and test business and technical processes to be activated in the case of a catastrophic event; where all other options to restore critical systems—including backups—have failed.

Designate a restoration platform so that if the resiliency plan is activated, data can be recovered from the vault to restore customer funds access as quickly as possible while you work to get back online.

SHELTERED® HARBOR
Resiliency Plan Certification

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Why Sheltered Harbor?

Built collaboratively by hundreds of the top subject matter experts in the financial industry.

The industry-developed standard for customer data protection and recovery of access to funds when critical systems fail.

Broad industry backing includes major industry associations, service providers, advisory and assurance firms, and regulator support.

Participating institutions already hold the majority of U.S. deposit accounts and brokerage client assets. To protect the entire industry, 100% participation is optimal.

Participation is low-cost and scaled to institution size and scope.

At all times, participants maintain control of their own customer data, plans and processes.

Tools and Resources

- Guides, roadmaps, forums, and training
- Reference architectures and templates
- Technology solutions such as encryption software (additional fees may apply)
- Alliance partners to help build the right plan for your institution (additional fees may apply)

Join today at ShelteredHarbor.org/Join

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