Turning Data Security Complexity into Control: A Financial Services Transformation by Paramount

Summary

A large India-based financial services organization transformed a stalled Microsoft data security deployment into a high-impact governance framework, unlocking the full value of its investment and driving substantial operational efficiency gains through Paramount's deep domain expertise and precision implementation of Microsoft Purview.

A financial services firm revived a stalled Microsoft data security rollout into effective governance.

Challenge

- Over 140 fragmented data protection policies made governance unmanageable.
- Broken data classification allowed sensitive financial information to be mislabeled and shared without alerts.
- PII detection failures created regulatory and compliance risks
- CISO and security teams trapped in firefighting mode, unable

Solution

- Policy rationalization reduced 140+ policies to just 20 without compromising compliance.
- Rebuilt data labeling logic to ensure sensitive financial data triggered correct controls and alerts
- Enabled accurate detection of PII, including IP addresses and device identifiers
- Introduced a structured governance model with quarterly strategic reviews

Impact

- Reduced operational workload by 60%
- Increased CISO and security team efficiency by 40%
- Achieved 25% estimated ROI by unlocking previously unused Microsoft security capabilities
- Shifted from daily firefighting to confident, audit-ready governance

Metric	Result	Impact
Operational Workload	60% Reduction	Reclaimed 3,000+ hours for strategic defense.
Team Productivity	40% Increase	Shifted focus from troubleshooting to resilience.
Financial ROI	25% Estimated	Unlocked paid features that were "shelfware" for 2 years.
Regulatory Posture	Audit-Ready	Automated compliance with RBI and SEBI mandates.

Overview

For two years, a major Indian financial subsidiary lived a haunting paradox: the more they invested in security, the more vulnerable they felt. Despite protecting 2,750 employees with premium Microsoft Purview licenses, a "noise" of 140+ tangled policies turned their infrastructure into a liability. Critical financial proposals moved undetected, while PII alerts remained silent despite strict RBI/SEBI mandates. Where previous partners had struggled to translate complex licensing into operational control, Paramount arrived as the third and definitive partner, bringing the specialized mastery needed to bridge the gap between technical potential and institutional protection. In just 90 days, Paramount's surgical intervention collapsed 140 policies into 20, activated dormant licenses, and transformed a "firefighting" CISO into a strategic leader.

The Challenges

Our team's initial assessment revealed a situation that represented every CISO's operational nightmare. Despite having invested in Microsoft Purview for data security, the implementation had created more problems than it solved.

Policy Sprawl That Undermined Control:
Over 140 overlapping data protection policies had accumulated over time, creating a governance structure that was difficult to manage and harder to trust. Conflicting rules and constant reviews drained security team capacity, replacing control with complexity and slowing down day-to-day operations.

Broken Data Classification Logic:
Sensitive financial communications involving customer proposals, credit data, and internal strategy were frequently labeled as "general business use." As a result, critical information moved without alerts, access controls failed silently, and the intent of data classification was fundamentally compromised.

PII Detection Blind Spots:
Personally Identifiable Information, including IP addresses, MAC identifiers, and customer data, was not consistently detected or flagged. Alerts failed to trigger when sensitive data moved, exposing the organization to regulatory scrutiny and audit risk in a highly controlled environment.

Security Teams Stuck in Firefighting:
The CISO and security teams spent their time managing partner escalations, rework, and manual oversight instead of strengthening defenses. Strategic security initiatives were deprioritized as the team operated in constant response mode, working harder but without forward momentum.

Dormant Security Investment:
Although the organization had paid for a broad Microsoft security stack, key capabilities remained unused for over two years. Two additional license areas sat idle, turning what should have been a strategic investment into ongoing sunk costs and missed value.

What made matters worse was that previous partners had been unable to customize the platform to meet the organization's specific regulatory and operational requirements. The limited awareness of how to extract value from these enterprise investments posed ongoing risks to both security posture and financial efficiency.

The Solution

Paramount's approach began with a fundamental principle: more policies does not mean more protection. Our engagement focused on precision governance design, strategic rationalization, and unlocking capabilities the client already owned.

Policy Rationalization: Consolidated 140+ policies into 20, simplifying enforcement while preserving regulatory and business requirements.
Risk-Aligned Data Classification: Redesigned labeling to reflect financial risk, ensuring sensitive data consistently triggered the right protections.
Reliable PII Detection: Enabled accurate detection of PII, including IP and MAC identifiers, restoring visibility and alerting.
Scalable Governance Model: Replaced reactive firefighting with structured oversight and quarterly governance reviews.
License Value Activation: Activated unused Microsoft security capabilities, unlocking measurable ROI without additional spend.

Together, these interventions replaced complexity with clarity, establishing a governance foundation that was not only compliant and secure but operationally sustainable at scale.

Microsoft Purview restores control through intelligent data governance

The Impact of the Implementation

Paramount's surgical intervention transformed a stalled deployment into a high-performance governance framework. By replacing complexity with precision, the organization realized significant gains in both operational bandwidth and financial value.

The rationalization of policies and automation of workflows directly reduced the manual burden on the organization's human capital:

60% Reduction in Operational Workload:
Internal security teams reclaimed over half of their time by eliminating the management of 140+ redundant policies.

40% Increase in Productivity:
By removing the need for constant troubleshooting and partner escalations, the CISO and core security staff shifted their focus back to high-level strategic mandates.

Beyond operational ease, the project delivered a clear financial victory by activating dormant assets:

25% Estimated ROI:
Paramount unlocked two major license areas that had remained unused for 24 months, extracting immediate value from existing sunk costs.

Cost Optimization:
Every dollar spent on the Microsoft security stack was converted into active protection, ensuring no further "shelfware" waste.

The implementation moved the organization from a reactive posture to a proactive, audit-ready state:

Shift to Strategic Oversight:
Daily "firefighting" was replaced by structured quarterly strategic reviews, stabilizing the long-term security roadmap.

Bulletproof Compliance:
Accurate PII detection and risk-aligned labeling ensured the organization met stringent RBI and SEBI mandates with automated enforcement.

Why Choose Paramount as Your Data Security Partner for Financial Resilience and Regulatory Precision?

Paramount's data security capabilities provide a sophisticated shield for financial institutions operating in high-pressure regulatory environments. Our approach transcends basic tool deployment, offering a strategic fusion of deep domain expertise and operational engineering.

We specialize in transforming fragmented, "noisy" security environments into streamlined, high-performance governance frameworks. By leveraging intelligent policy rationalization and automated classification logic, Paramount ensures that sensitive financial assets, from credit risk assessments to customer PII, are protected by invisible yet impenetrable guardrails. Our methodology not only fortifies your security posture against data exfiltration but also targets the "human tax" of security, drastically reducing manual intervention and allowing leadership to pivot from tactical firefighting to strategic growth.

Microsoft Purview

Microsoft Purview serves as the engine for unified data governance, risk management, and compliance across the modern multi-cloud estate. It offers unparalleled visibility into the data landscape, enabling automated labeling and protection that follows the data wherever it resides, whether in SharePoint, Teams, or cross-border communication channels. Purview's sophisticated Data Loss Prevention (DLP) and Information Protection capabilities allow financial organizations to meet stringent RBI and SEBI mandates with surgical accuracy.