How Loop achieved reliable and scalable authorization with Cerbos

Case Study

LOOP

cerbos

"The Cerbos solution is battle tested, secure and it's doing what it's supposed to do. We have full trust in the product."

MOHSIN KALAM,
CTO & Co-Founder, Loop

LOOP

Loop, a rapidly expanding B2B FinTech startup, streamlines the financial operations of businesses by eliminating inefficiencies and generating substantial working capital savings each month.

Highlights

Challenges

- Implementing a secure and scalable authorization system
- Swiftly satisfying compliance requirements
- Centralizing access controls
- Ensuring security with regard to visibility of financial information

Solution

- Quick set-up with easy-to-understand code
- Centralized accounting system permissions
- Comprehensive audit logs
- Technical advice from an expert team

Results

- Secure and extensible access permissions
- Capacity to focus on building and releasing new products
- Bandwidth to securely service considerably more clients
- Aptitude to go through compliance easily and smoothly

Challenges
Building a scalable and reliable solution for access controls

As a rapidly expanding financial technology company, Loop considered having a scalable and secure authorization solution in both the front and backend to be of the utmost importance.

In pursuit of centralized access controls that would enable secure operations, efficient servicing of a growing customer base, and ensure compliance, Mohsin Kalam, CTO and Co-Founder of Loop, sought a battle-tested solution.

> *"Authorization is something that we take very seriously, because we deal with financial transactions. And we wanted to make sure that we have something that's battle tested for our company and we didn't want to reinvent the wheel.",* Mohsin explains.

Recognizing the exorbitant cost and time associated with building an in-house authorization system, Mohsin knew that developing a solution from scratch was not a viable option.

> *"If we would've had to do it on our own, then I know that we wouldn't have been able to scale, as we are now, with the confidence that we have. And we especially would not have been able to meet the compliance of our regulators as quickly.",* Mohsin adds.

The team at Loop sought a third-party access control solution that would allow their development and engineering teams to focus on releasing faster while expanding their customer base.

After evaluating various authorization providers, Loop ultimately selected Cerbos as their authorization system developer.

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"The team at Cerbos are great, receptive people. ==The APIs were easy to understand, and it was more of a plug and play solution.== We did a quick prototype and didn't have any challenges. It worked out great. So I thought it's a no-brainer. ==The product did the convincing for us.== And then we expanded with it."

Solution

Scalable and secure authorization layer

Mohsin was impressed by how quickly and easily authorization through Cerbos could be set up, enabling Loop to roll out their authorization solution in just one week.

Using the API documentation and the step-by-step instructions, the team at Loop was able to set up the architecture.

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"The thing I love about Cerbos, is that you can just work it as an open source dockerized container - just need to pull in the latest image and boom, you have a server deployed.", Mohsin says.

After that, Loop's engineering team collaborated with the Cerbos developers to define policies for Loop's use case. Non-technical team members from Loop were likewise involved in the process, seeing as the YAML in the policy is so easy to use.

"*And after that, it's just been smooth sailing.*", Mohsin says.

After setting Cerbos up, Mohsin noted that Loop only touch their authorization when they need to add or update a policy. Additionally, Cerbos gave Loop confidence in their operations thanks to the comprehensive audit logs.

Cerbos has helped Loop swiftly meet compliance requirements, with the solution functioning in both the front and backend.

> *"Cerbos definitely helps us meet compliance. Some of the compliance checks require us to have security policies up to date. Being able to demonstrate that Cerbos is handling authorization for us is a great convenience.",* Mohsin highlights.

The clean architecture and documentation of Cerbos have earned praise from Mohsin, as has the exceptional support provided by the Cerbos team during the implementation stage. By implementing Cerbos, Loop has saved time on development while enhancing the security and scalability of their business.

> *"We have Java in our tech stack, we have NodeJS, we have ReactJS. Cerbos integrates with all of them really well, because it works on an API level basis. You ask a question and it returns an answer. So it doesn't matter what the consuming technology is, it just works. Having a clean architecture where both the frontend and the backend teams can work independently, but still have a central point, is valuable to us.",* Mohsin says.

"We hardly touch it, unless we really need to add or update a policy. That's the best part about having a third party solution that just works."

Results

Security, compliance, and quicker releases

Thanks to Cerbos, Loop now has a scalable, flexible and secure solution for access controls that they can confidently rely on to release their products and service a growing customer base.

Estimating Cerbos has saved them three to six months, Mohsin notes that the team at Loop is able to focus on other tasks and speed up the release process, ultimately servicing more customers much faster.

"We were actually able to focus on other parts of the pipeline and other parts of the software development life cycle. So, speed to release has been impacted, which meant that we could service more customers much faster. Having more releases done, having more time to do experimentation, is also a really good win for us.", Mohsin highlights.

Best of all, Loop found a perfect fit partner in Cerbos at the beginning of their journey, allowing them to easily navigate the complexities of compliance requirements and grow exponentially without any set-backs, from the get-go.

Mohsin recommends Cerbos to financial technology companies looking for an authorization solution, highlighting its ease of use, cohesion with the overall system, and great support from the responsive Cerbos team.

"This product is definitely going to upgrade your security layer and provide a lot of cost saving. I think it's a great product for the overall company, not just the technical part of the company.", Mohsin says.

"**The ease of use, the cohesion between the overall system, the back and the frontend, they all talk to a single point.** That's huge in terms of time saving and reliability for us, and maintenance wise as well."

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