



**19**  
02/2026

HashiTalks 2026

## **Vaulting Over Compliance: Aligning Secrets Management with European Data Laws**



**Leon Krass**

Technical Leader  
for HashiCorp Vault

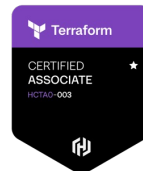
/ About me

## Introduction

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Passionate about secrets management and (sometimes over-) engineering IT automation with a touch of Kubernetes, Terraform and/or Ansible magic.

HashiCorp Vault, Kubernetes, Ansible, Terraform

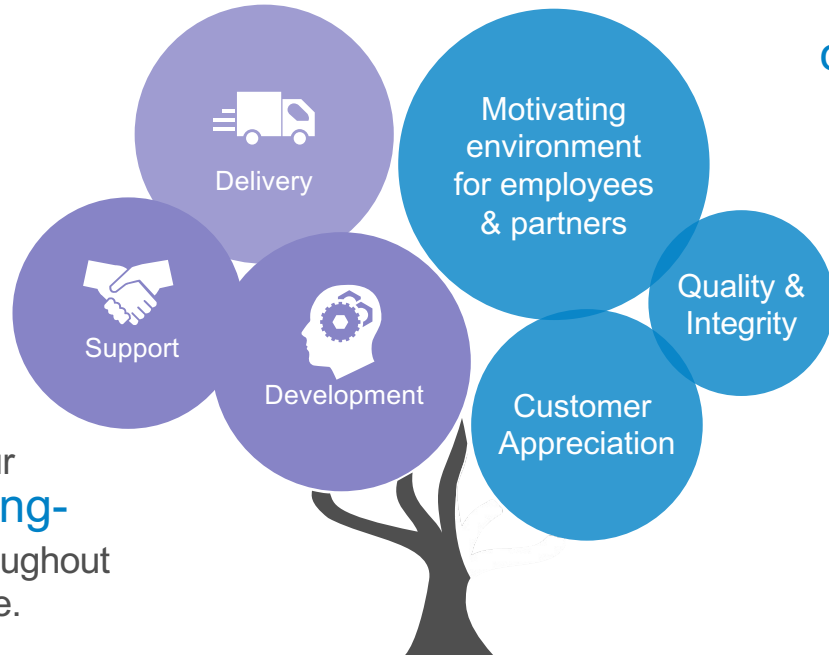


# Who is SVA?

Biggest **owner-operated system integrator** in Germany

Steady growth with more than **3.700 employees** in Germany

We accompany our customers on a **long-term basis** throughout the project lifecycle.



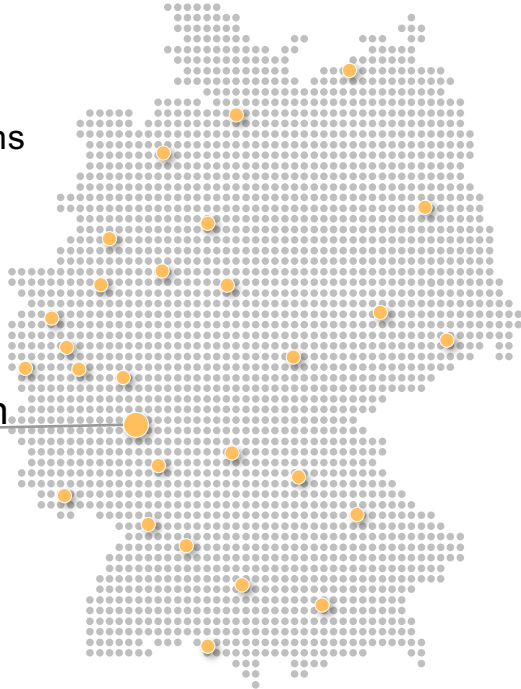
Company  
**objectives**

/ About us

## Who is SVA?

28

Locations



Wiesbaden

# INDUSTRIES

such as



AUTOMOTIVE



RETAIL



PUBLIC



HEALTH CARE



MACHINERY & PLANT  
ENGINEERING



TELECOMMUNI-  
CATIONS



FINANCE &  
INSURANCE

# Vaulting Over Compliance: Aligning Secrets Management with European Data Laws

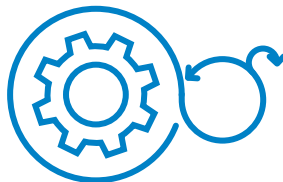
1

NIS2 and GDPR



2

Vault as Compliance Engine



3

Demo



4

Wrap-Up



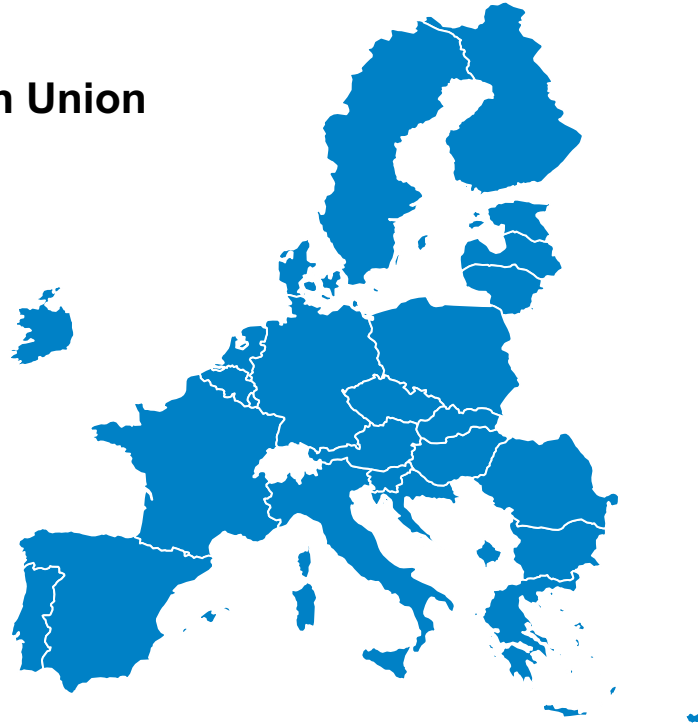
## NIS2 & GDPR

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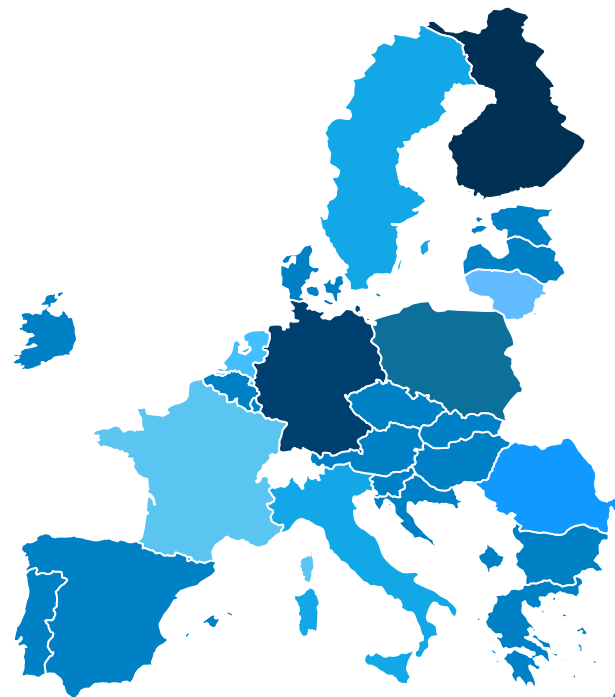


# How Do European (Data) Laws Work?

European Union



# How Do European (Data) Laws Work?



# How Do European (Data) Laws Work?



Directive





/ NIS2

## What Is It?

→ NIS2 = **Directive**

→ Effective since January 2023

→ Regulates **Cyber Security**

→ Protect Economy

→ Enforce Liability

→ Strengthen Awareness

→ No specific technical implementation requirements, but establishes **continuous security optimization**



/ NIS2

## Why Should I Care?

- You operate **inside the EU**
  - Penalty fees on violation possible
- You are a CEO
  - Liability enforcement
- For your **own safety**
  - Prevent damage

# What Is It?

→ GDPR = **Regulation**

→ Effective since May 2018

→ Regulates **Personal Data Handling**

- Requires legal basis for processing
- Establishes principles for processing
- Enforces accountability
- Data Subject Rights

→ Implies **appropriate** technical implementation requirements per use case



## Why Should I Care?

- GDPR applies to any organization **in- and outside the EU**
- You do business with EU citizen
  - Penalty fees on violation
- You are an EU citizen
  - GDPR protects your **personal rights**



# Comparison



## NIS2

- Directive (→ sets goals)
- IT security
- Inside EU



## GDPR

- Regulation (→ is enforced)
- Personal data handling
- In- & outside EU



# Consequences

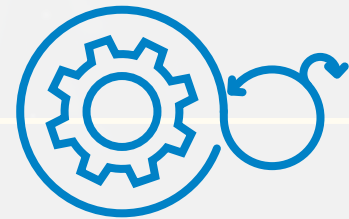


- Impact and risk assessment required
- Reporting office must be established
- Preparation for possible audits required



## **Vault as a Compliance Engine**

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# Data Encryption

→ **Reversible transformation** of readable information into an **unreadable form**

→ Vault offers different features, e. g.:

- Cryptographic barrier for internal data
- Encryption as a service (Transit, Transform)
- Transport layer security (PKI)
- Centralized key management (KMIP)

→ **HSM** integration for advanced cryptography



# Data Encryption



## NIS2

- Ensures confidentiality and integrity
- Reduces impact of data breaches



## GDPR

- Enables secure data processing in non sovereign environments
- Secure storage of sensitive data requires encryption



# Secret Rotation

→ **Regularly** replacing credentials

→ Vault offers different mechanisms,  
e. g.:

→ **Dynamic Secrets** for DBs, SSH, ...

→ Root credential rotation

→ Key rotation

→ Certificate rotation

→ **Lifecycle management** using  
leases



# Secret Rotation



## NIS2

- Minimizes attack surface
- Enables zero-trust architectures
- Cyber attacks can be stopped by revocations



## GDPR

- Reinforces security of of personal data processing
- Root credentials can be hidden from humans



# Audit Logging

→ Recording of **who did what, when, and from where**

→ Vault offers **Audit Devices** for this purpose

- Sensitive data is hashed by default
- Various interfaces available (file, syslog, socket)
- Tamper resistance through HMACs

→ Audit logs can be further processed in **log collectors** and/or **SIEMs**



# Audit Logging



## NIS2

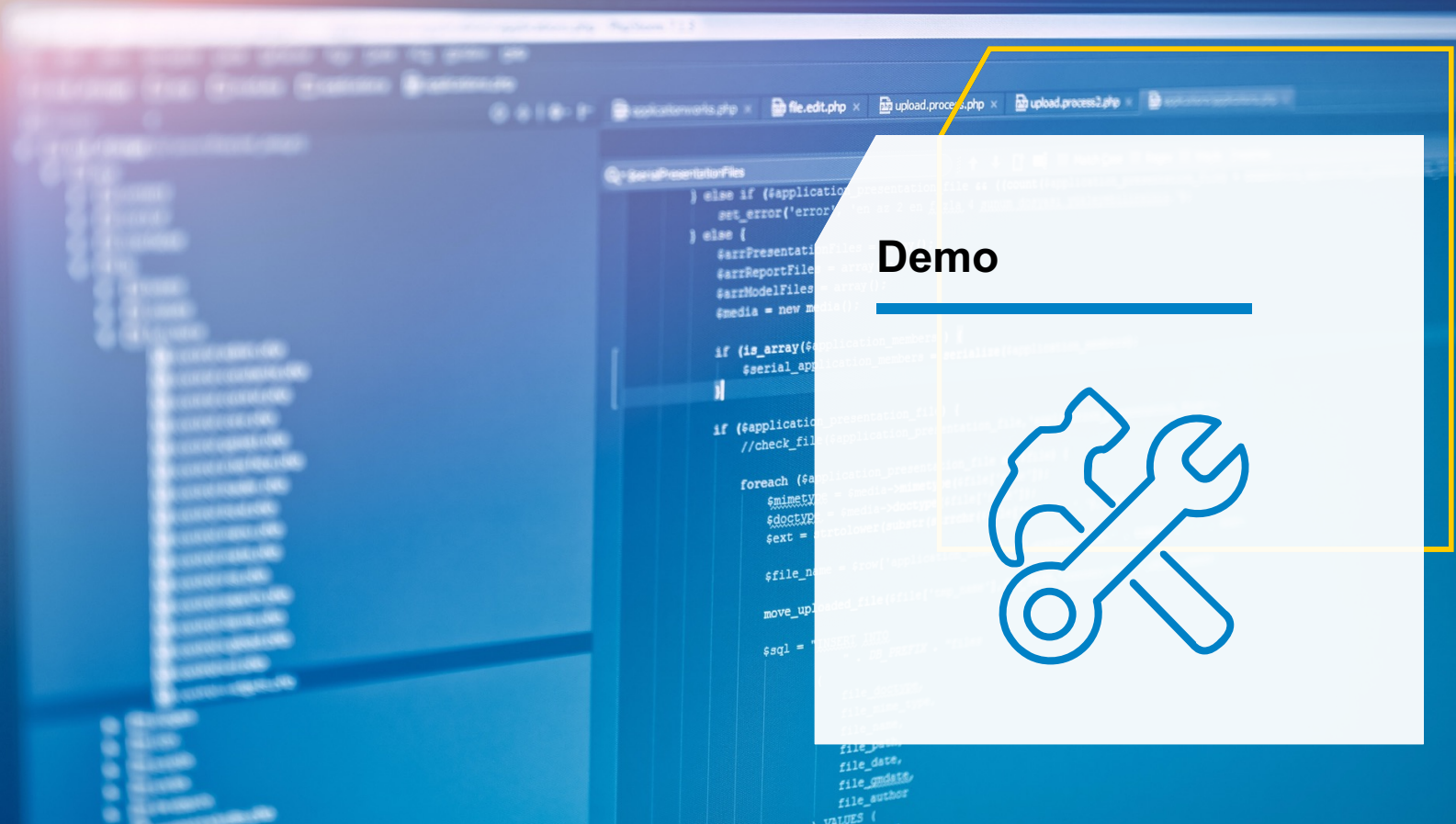
- Supports non-repudiation and accountability
- Investigation on cyber attacks is simplified



## GDPR

- Access to personal data is traceable and transparent
- Lawfulness of data processing becomes provable

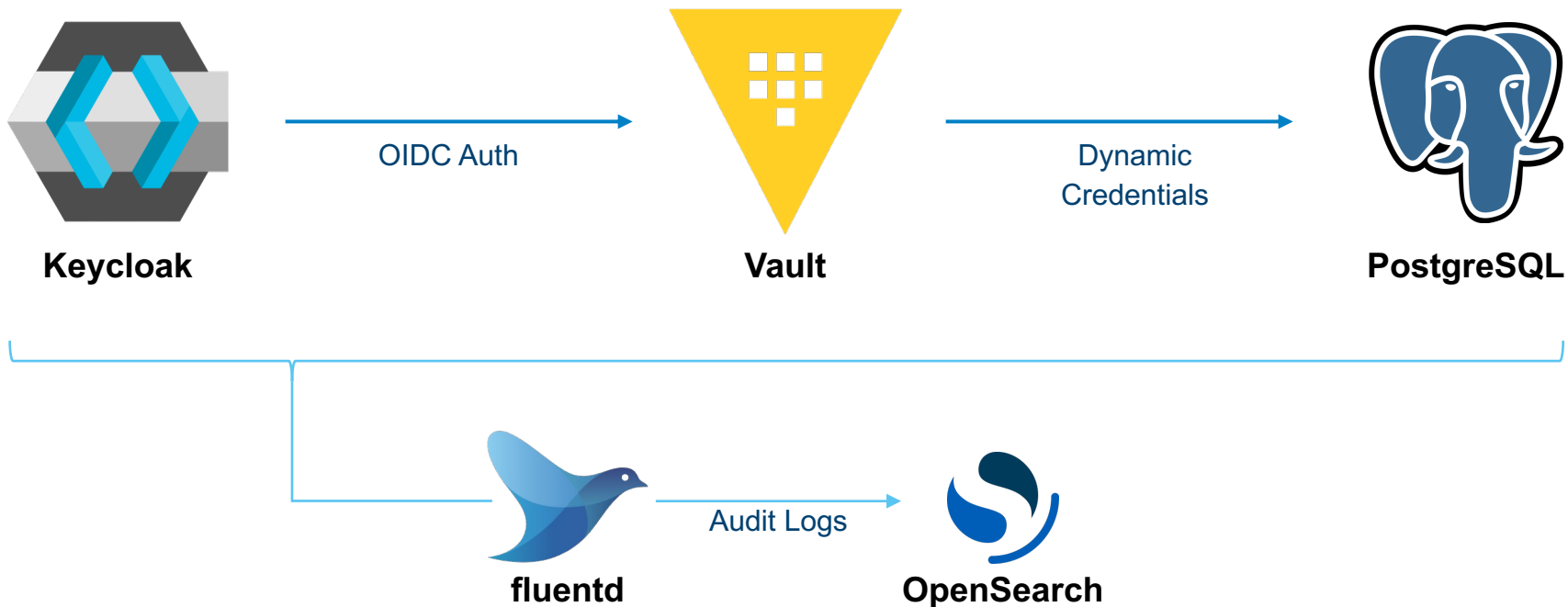


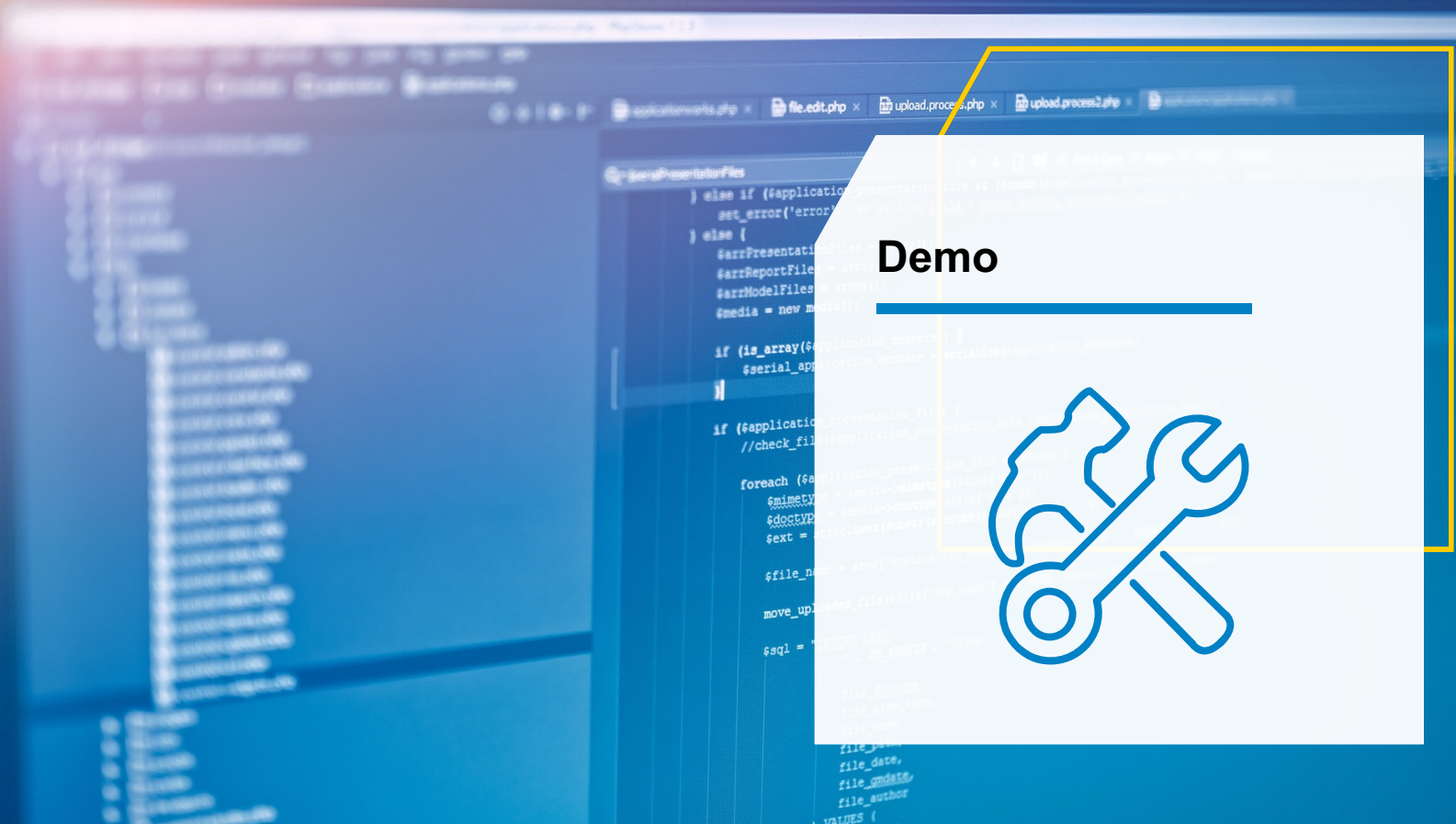


# Demo



# Architecture





# Demo





**Wrap-Up**



/ Grab your copy!

## Resources



/ Got questions?

## Contact



### Leon Krass

Technical Leader HashiCorp Vault

+49 151 53882677

leon.krass@sva.de

[www.sva.de](http://www.sva.de)

SVA System Vertrieb Alexander GmbH

Location Hamburg

Große Elbstraße 273

22767 Hamburg



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