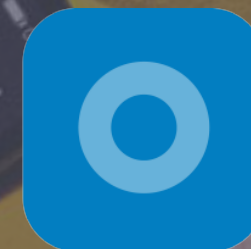




Payment platform Pleo is scaling up with Okta and dataJAR



dataJAR and Pleo have a previously established working relationship, as dataJAR had been engaged to configure and manage the organisation's Apple devices when it needed a solution to enable easy integrations and the capacity to scale in the future.

Pleo required a single solution that would integrate with all major applications, including [datajar.mobi](#) and Google Workspace as well as its HR software Humaans, in order to deliver greater visibility across its identity processes. The company decided Okta was the best fit for its integration needs, with the simplest user interface and the greatest number of integrations with the tools it was already using.

Pleo is now delivering consistent security across applications. The automated on and offboarding process ensures accounts are opened and closed in a timely manner, while its auditing and data management processes are compliant with governance regulations for the sector.



Supporting thousands of businesses across Europe



Workforce has doubled in size in the past six months to nearly 1,000 employees



Using [datajar.mobi](#) mobile device management



Leveraging Okta adaptive MFA, SSO, Verify and Fastpass



97 per cent of users utilise some form of macOS devices



Business situation

Managing financial processes manually can significantly slow down the pace of a project. Think expense reports, holding onto old paper receipts and wondering whether an invoice has been paid on time. Expense management solution **Pleo** solves this challenge by providing simple, intuitive and, in some cases, delightful technology for finance teams and employees alike. With Pleo, finance teams can give employees a Pleo card to buy what they need to get their work done. They then take a photo of the receipt in the Pleo app and expense reports are automatically created, giving finance teams the visibility they need to ensure healthy spending within the business.

Pleo also takes care of invoice management, mileage and reimbursement claims, meaning finance administrators can expect to save 138 work hours a year normally spent on paperwork and admin.

This combination of easy-to-use solutions and tangible time savings is proving popular with Pleo's customers and, in recent years, the start-up has experienced

rapid growth, expanding from Denmark and the UK to a further 14 European markets. As a result, its workforce has doubled in size in the past six months and now employs almost 1,000 staff.

With such rapid growth, onboarding and offboarding were taking up a lot of time. Pleo's IT team wanted to reduce time spent on administrative tasks, while centralising and modernising its access management.

This would close any possible security loopholes and ensure its auditing and data management processes were compliant with governance regulations for its sector. Pleo was already collaborating with Okta partner dataJAR to help configure and control its Apple devices using Jamf.

After hearing how other growing start-ups were working with dataJAR and Okta to support their growth, Pleo selected Okta as the right solution to enable easy integrations and the capacity to scale in the future.

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“Without dataJAR and Okta, we simply would not have been able to scale in a sustainable way. Not only can we onboard more quickly and efficiently, the IT team is much less stressed.”

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Using dataJAR Mobile Device Management and Okta means when employees receive their company laptop, it is fully loaded and ready to go, with all their tools installed. From a user point of view, it is really easy and we have been getting great feedback from new starters.

Laith Al-Maliki, IT Manager, Pleo



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Choosing a platform that integrates with all the right tools

Pleo's team-led approach extends the ways its own teams work internally, with employees able to purchase IT applications and solutions as needed, using Pleo cards. As a result, Pleo's workforce uses more than 200 different SaaS applications. While employees were previously signing into some of these applications via Google Workspace, not all of the applications its workforce used were compatible, leading to a patchwork of different security solutions.

Pleo wanted a single solution that would integrate with its major applications, including datajar.mobi and Google Workspace, as well as its HR software Humaans, in order to deliver greater visibility across its identity processes. Pleo decided Okta was the best fit for the company's remote-first mindset and its integration needs, as it provided the simplest user interface as well as the greatest number of integrations with the tools it was already using.

As for dataJAR, Pleo felt they had a similar approach to choosing the leading tools on the market. Laith explained: "97 per cent of our users utilise some form of macOS and dataJAR had recently hired a number of world-class Mac experts, so that immediately earned our stamp of approval. Adding Okta to the services we were already purchasing through dataJAR was a great way to deepen the partnership."

Delivering faster onboarding and more consistent security

Employees can now log in to 28 applications via Okta using **Single Sign-On (SSO)**, securing their login with

a secondary factor, using **Multi Factor Authentication (MFA)**. They can do this in the way that suits them best, using **Okta Verify**, Google Authenticator or an SMS. Employees can also use **Okta Fastpass**, which delivers passwordless authentication through its macOS devices managed by Jamf.

"Using dataJAR Mobile Device Management and Okta means when employees receive their company laptop, it's fully loaded and ready to go, with all their tools installed," explained Laith. "From the user point of view, it's really easy and we've been getting great feedback from new starters."

With Pleo's rapid rates of growth, up to 100 employees have been onboarded every month. Inductions take place every two weeks as part of Pleo's extended onboarding process. A number of Pleo's applications are integrated with **Lifecycle Management** and Okta now automatically assigns permissions for those applications using group access rights, which has reduced the administrative burden associated with both onboarding new starters and forming new internal teams.

Supporting an IT team with greater visibility and more control

One of the key benefits for Pleo is security across applications is now consistent. The IT team is back in charge of access management, as employees are now only allowed to purchase applications that are compatible with Okta. The team also has visibility over the entire lifecycle of user accounts and has significantly reduced the number of weekly IT service desk queries.

Another key change is the time required to onboard new employees, which previously took up to two hours. Now, new employees are onboarded within five minutes and, when employees leave the company, their access to applications is disabled without having to manually remove it. This saves time for the IT team and helps in terms of security and governance.

"As a regulated institution, we need to ensure applications are managed properly and accounts are closed on time," said Laith. "We now require that a tool supports integration with Okta, before we will enroll it and provision it company-wide."





Bringing together Okta and HR for even easier provisioning

The next step for Pleo is to integrate its HR software with Okta. This will enable it to automate provisioning and deprovisioning based on HR records, saving time and helping eliminate manual errors. It is also looking forward to the introduction of **Identity Governance**, which will automatically generate governance reports for auditing.

“We know the technology inside out and are able to tailor the user experience to a particular client’s environment,” said Chris Tomsett, business development manager at dataJAR. “We are really looking forward to continuing to support Pleo as it grows.”

“Without dataJAR and Okta, we simply would not have been able to scale in a sustainable way,” concluded Laith. “Not only can we onboard more quickly and efficiently, the IT team is much less stressed.”

Ready to find out more about dataJAR? We would love to hear from you.

[Chat with our experts](#)