IBF Consulting Inc
setting the standard for IT professionals

Customer/integrator:
IBF Consulting,
IT consulting firm
Web Site:
www.ibfconsulting.com

End-customer:
Private Equity Investment Firm
Number of Users: 75
Industry: Banking and Finance

Solutions:
Change auditing; end-point security, systems management

Products:
File Server Change Reporter, USB Blocker, Service Monitor

Vendor:
NetWrix Corporation
Phone: 888-638-9749
Web Site: **www.netwrix.com**

Customer/Integrator's Profile:
IBF Consulting is a full service IT Consulting firm. As technology integrators, they provide turnkeyproject work and complete outsourced solutions.

Improving Data Security and Expediting IT Support in a Private Equity Investment Firm

"NetWrix products all have the same thing in common: they do a good job at what they're supposed to do and are simple enough to implement."

Ian Fischer, President, IBF Consulting

IBF Consulting is a full service IT Consulting firm specializing in small to midsize companies (SME). As technology integrators, they provide turnkey project work and complete outsourced solutions ("Outsourced IT department"). Full lifecycle management of all technology and technology related functions are their responsibility.

Challenge: Securing Critical Data and Facilitating Everyday IT Administration Tasks

Private customer information is one of the most delicate and yet vulnerable types of data kept by any company regardless the industry it represents. However, in investment and finance sector the importance of such information increases 3 fold. Each and every day companies face numerous risks related to unauthorized access to sensitive files stored within the corporate network - financial statements, private customer data, banking card and account access info and so on.

The data is usually kept in dedicated file servers or client machines within the network environment and may be accessed and for example copied directly to an external USB device or perhaps modified or even deleted by someone remotely connected to a given server. That is why it is essential that companies develop strong security strategies in order to safeguard valuable data and prevent unauthorized use of removable media

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as well as be able to track who did what, where and when within the file server environment.

One of the clients of IBF Consulting, a private equity investment firm, was no exception and had entrusted all IT management and security issues to a reputable IT consulting firm – IBF Consulting which operates as an outsourced IT department of their client companies. "IBF Consulting manages their client base like running an emergency room at the hospital" said Ian Fischer, President, IBF Consulting. Providing IT support to their client – the team at IBF has to take care of many different IT management tasks as system administration, security control and others which consist of hundreds of routine day-to-day operations difficult to handle simultaneously without automation. Once the need for automation was realized, IBF Consulting started looking for an appropriate set of solutions to cover various security and systems monitoring issues: from end-point security and file server event auditing to monitoring critical Windows services.

Solution: Efficient and Affordable Software for Auditing, Security and Monitoring

From the very beginning the team at IBF Consulting realized that native tools from Microsoft were not capable of resolving the issues they came across every day managing the IT infrastructure of their client.

That was the main reason why IBF first did extensive product research to find the most appropriate tools that would meet their requirements. It was decided to look for alternative functional solutions with rich reporting capabilities at an affordable price. It was crucial that the solutions excelled at performing initial tasks, had straight-forward UI and were not overloaded with unnecessary features: "I rarely use built-in MS tools to solve a problem, I generally look to 3rd party for that. I always research a product before purchasing. Besides price, functionality, reporting and tech support are important factors for me. May similar products vary greatly once you have a close look at them. Some of them offer lots of bells and whistles, but may not do a good job on the basic need.", said Fischer.

Soon they found out about NetWrix solutions through one of the reputable magazines for IT pros. The products were capable of doing exactly what was required of them and the cost of purchase appeared to be one of the lowest in the market:

"I have read about your products in professional journals (Win IT Pro), and used some of your free tools. I was doing product research and thought I should see what NetWrix had to offer. The product seemed to have everything I was looking for at an affordable price.", explained Fischer.

Freeware tools proved useful and it was decided to purchase the enterprise edition of NetWrix File Server Change Reporter first to be able to track and prevent unauthorized and accidental changes to the file server environment.

Once NetWrix File Server Change Reporter proved to be excellent value for money, the team at IBF Consulting purchased USB Blocker and Service Monitor.

"I was pleased enough with FSCR to then purchase the USB lockdown and then the Service monitor. These products all have a similar feel to them and didn't take a long time to understand or implement." commented Fischer.

The solutions were implemented in almost no time and successfully launched with a little help from the NetWrix technical support team: "The research took only a few weeks, deployment was done in a week. Deployment went relatively smooth, although there were some issues which I was able to quickly work out with support.", said Fischer.

Proven Result: Boosted Data Security and Systems Administration Made Easy

Having deployed NetWrix File Server Change Reporter, USB Blocker and Service Monitor, the team at IBF Consulting was able to realize the full potential of the products. The most important thing for the team was that the

products served very well to improve the overall security of their client's data both end-point and on the network.

"The USB lockdown app greatly enhanced our client's security from the inside out and inside in. Until you implement a product like this, you don't realize how many ways there are to lose data. Locking down the USB ports was only part of the solution. The other half was whitelisting a specific brand/model of USB drive which is password protected & encrypted. Their data is now secure at the desktop AND in the field." explained Fischer.

Moreover, the team was satisfied not only with the product performance and ROI but also recognized the simplicity of product deployment, maintenance and the level of technical support: "I think the NetWrix products offer a basic product at an affordable price which is easy to implement and maintain" said Fischer, "Support is USA based and very helpful. All at a good value", he added.

Not only have the products improved the security issues but also substantially released the workload of the whole team at IBF Consulting when it came to servicing the IT infrastructure of their client: "NetWrix makes our job easier to do on a day to day basis. There's less for us to worry about." commented Fischer.

Having been able to appreciate the advantages of NetWrix solutions the team

at IBF Consulting recommends NetWrix to all who value easily deployable quality products at an affordable price: "I would recommend NetWrix to anyone that is looking for a solid base product which is simple to implement at a low cost per seat" concluded Fischer.

About NetWrix

NetWrix Corporation is a highly specialized provider of solutions for IT infrastructure change auditing. Change auditing is the core competency of NetWrix and no other vendor focuses on this more extensively. With the broadest platform coverage available in the industry, innovative technology and strategic roadmap aiming to support different types of IT systems, devices and applications, NetWrix offers award-winning change auditing solutions at very competitive prices, matched with great customer service. Founded in 2006, NetWrix has evolved as #1 for Change Auditing as evidenced by thousands of satisfied customers worldwide. The company is headquartered in Paramus, NJ, and has regional offices in Los Angeles, Boston, Tampa and the UK.

NetWrix top-quality change auditing solutions have won 30 awards and are used by thousands of organizations around the world. The impressive list of customers from various industries includes many well-known brands, such as IBM®, Boeing®, Mitsubishi®, Hyundai® and more. They have chosen

NetWrix, because change auditing is the core competency of NetWrix and no other vendor focuses on this more extensively. According to the survey conducted during MS Tech-Ed 2011, 18% of IT professionals use NetWrix for change auditing, which is the highest percentage across the industry.

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#1 for Change Auditing and Compliance™