Netwrix Customer Success Story

State of Maine stays secure with Netwrix Auditor

Auditing Active Directory to Comply with State and Federal Regulations

The State of Maine's IT department is responsible for the delivery of safe, secure and high-performing networks and systems that enable the State and all State Agencies to best serve the State's residents and businesses.

CUSTOMER
State of Maine

WEB SITE
www.maine.gov

INDUSTRY
State Government

SOLUTION
Change Auditing

PRODUCTS
Netwrix Auditor

PROFILE
The State of Maine is responsible for providing all of its residents and businesses with effective, safe and quality public services and timely state and federal information. The state's IT department, in accordance with that mission, is responsible for the delivery of safe, secure and high-performing networks and systems that enable the state and all State Agencies to best serve the people of Maine.

> *Our goal was to meet both State of Maine and Federal Security guidelines. Netwrix ActiveDirectory Change Reporter has met and exceeded our expectations.*
>
> **Brian Desjardins,**
> **Network Architect, State of Maine**

Challenge: Auditing Active Directory to Comply with State and Federal Regulations

In order to comply with both state government and federal auditing and archiving guidelines, Maine's IT department was burdened with the task of auditing and reporting on all changes occurring within the entire Active Directory environment. State and federal mandates required the IT department to know exactly who made what Active Directory changes, when, where, but within an environment that delegated administrative rights across several administrative boundaries, centralized enterprise change auditing was no simple task.

"We have a distributed organization with several administrative boundaries," said Desjardins. "Although we 'contain' Administrative Delegation, our mandates require that all will be audited for change processes that occur, and we needed to audit exactly who was making what change, when and where."

"We found that multiple Microsoft tools were available, but they were cumbersome, time consuming and less intuitive," Desjardins added. "We then looked for third-party vendors to fill in the gap (such as Quest ChangeAuditor), but found that many were cost-prohibitive or required Microsoft Active Directory Schema Changes, complex installation, maintenance, or time-consuming attention."

Solution: Cost-effective Active Directory Auditing without Performance Impacts and Infrastructure Changes

That is when the Desjardins and the State of Maine's IT department discovered Netwrix Active Directory Change Reporter, an automated Active Directory change auditing solution that sends real-time alerts and detailed Advanced Reports that show exactly who makes what changes, when and where. The audit reports and alerts show modifications made to Active Directory users, groups, computers, OUs, permissions, Group Policy objects and settings, AD schema, and all other types of objects, giving the State of Maine's IT department the heightened IT infrastructure visibility it needs to comply with state and federal guidelines.

"With Netwrix Active Directory Change Reporter, we now have a definitive way of auditing changes within our Active Directory infrastructure, and can meet state government and federal auditing and archiving guidelines with ease."

Desjardins indicated that there were several features that made Netwrix his #1 choice for Active Directory change auditing.

"In addition to affordability, Active Directory Change Reporter's ease of installation, advanced reporting and archiving functionality, and ability to revert unwanted changes, made Netwrix the clear choice for us," Desjardins said. "We liked the Netwrix tool's excellent reporting features and low bandwidth consumption, as well as the fact that it required no infrastructure changes."

"Deployment was quick (minutes) and went without a hitch," Desjardins added. "Our biggest concern was load on our domain controllers and network infrastructure, but both concerns proved to be non-existent. We have also enjoyed the top-notch service and support that Netwrix has given us."

Proven Result: Streamlined Compliance with State and Federal Regulations

Following the installation of Netwrix Enterprise Management Suite, positive results were generated very soon across the Eurobank's IT infrastructure. Shortly after the deployment of Netwrix Active Directory Change Reporter, the local authority that audits the bank's IT security, carried out a fake intrusion into the bank's servers.

Thanks to Netwrix Active Directory Change Reporter's ability to create real-time alerts that show who changed what, when, and where for all changes in a legible and user-friendly format, the bank's IT department was able to meet their security goal – track and report on changes related to a 3-rd party intrusion. The audit was therefore successfully passed. "We had a penetration test from the local authority when they tried to gain control over some servers by adding themselves to certain groups. We could not stop them but thanks to real-time alerts we were immediately informed about this activity. The auditor marked it in their report as a positive point," said Savaş Demir.

Another example of the IT department's readiness to address security issues in an Exchange Server environment was when a user's SMTP address suddenly changed and it was crucial to immediately report to the management on a cause of the issue. Luckily, the IT department has already been armed with Netwrix Exchange Change Reporter, which was quick to deliver an appropriate report. "Another example was the default SMTP address of one of the users that had been changed, which led to the management asking: "How could it have happened?" We followed the reports and found out which action was the cause and reported it. Otherwise, it would have been impossible to find out what happened by using DC logs," said Demir.

Eventually, the Eurobank Tekfen's IT department was able to fully benefit from other Netwrix products included in Netwrix All-in-One Suite, and pointed out just how critical the Netwrix solution is for any system administrator: "The All-in-One Suite has a lot of change auditing tools useful for administrators . We are happy to have chosen Netwrix as all change auditing modules made an immensely positive difference for us."

About Netwrix Corporation

Netwrix Corporation is the leading provider of configuration auditing software, offering the most simple, efficient and affordable IT infrastructure auditing solution with the broadest coverage of audited systems and applications available today. Founded in 2006, Netwrix has grown to have thousands of customers worldwide. The company is headquartered in Irvine, California, with regional offices in New Jersey, Ohio, Georgia and the UK. For more information, visit www.netwrix.com

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