Auditing the Use of Delegated Administrative Rights

“With NetWrix, we can easily see who changed what and when in our Active Directory.”

Leo Aalsma, IT Coordinator, Calibris

Calibris, a leader in vocational training that works hard to bridge the gap between the inexpert and the experienced, provides professional instruction for employees of various sectors bound by specific industrial, governmental and company standards. Calibris’ customers depended heavily on their consistent and reliable services to enhance employee proficiency. That responsibility is something that Calibris did not take lightly, and as a result, the IT department understood the need to maintain a stable infrastructure.

Challenge: Security Concerns in a Delegated Administrative Environment

A recent organizational change at Calibris, however, required delegation of certain administrative activities in Active Directory to another department, and the IT staff, for obvious security reasons, was not comfortable with the idea of losing partial control of its environment. “As a direct consequence of the recent organizational change we had to delegate control of certain user properties in our Active Directory to a sub-department,” said Leo Aalsma, IT Coordinator at Calibris. Even the simplest changes can have major consequences and this is why the IT department understood the critical importance of monitoring all administrative activity.

Solution: Auditing of Administrative User Activity

That’s when Calibris found NetWrix Active Directory Change Reporter, a change auditing solution that allows administrators to track all Active Directory changes via reports with “who, what, when, and
where” information regarding each change, as well as the “before” and “after” values of every modification. After a free evaluation, it was determined that the NetWrix product was exactly what Calibris needed to monitor the user activity, and the solution was quickly implemented.

“NetWrix Active Directory Change Reporter did exactly what we needed, so we didn’t have to search any further,” said Aalsma. “The product was easy to install, intuitive, affordable and it offered good support. It was very easy to justify the purchase of a product which proved itself in the trial period and came with excellent support.”

Once deployed, the IT staff started receiving daily reports detailing all Active Directory changes made by users with delegated administrative rights that offered clear visibility into the IT infrastructure. In addition to the Active Directory Change Reporter, the IT department has benefitted from Exchange Change Reporter and Group Policy Change Reporter modules, also included with the product.

“Another benefit we discovered involved Exchange auditing,” said Aalsma. “When people would try to give their colleagues rights to their calendars, they would accidentally give them rights to send e-mails on their behalf as well. Exchange Change Reporter allows us to monitor these changes and correct them when necessary.”

The NetWrix solution was flexible enough to accommodate the additional needs. “We required the monitoring of all account unlocking operations,” said Aalsma. “NetWrix support quickly helped me to turn on this advanced option and we were all set.”

**Proven Result: Clear Visibility into All Administrative Activities**

Since deploying the Active Directory Change Reporter, the Calibris IT department has been able to monitor all changes made by any users that might have previously gone unnoticed. Administrators are now abreast of all changes and accidental permission modifications that might otherwise threaten the infrastructure security. With fully automated auditing of Active Directory, Group Policy and Exchange, the IT department can track all changes in detailed reports automatically sent by e-mail daily and available on demand at any time.

“In the future we may look further into file server and VMware auditing, also offered by NetWrix.” said Aalsma.

**About NetWrix Corporation**

Established in 2006, NetWrix Corporation provides innovative and cost-effective solutions that simplify and automate the management of Windows networks. With in-depth knowledge and experience managing Windows environments of all sizes, the company delivers solutions to meet complicated business requirements while fulfilling the best expectations of IT professionals.