# netwrix

# Netwrix Customer Success Story

## Soka University Gets in Proactive Mode of Preventing Privilege Abuse with Netwrix Auditor

**CUSTOMER**
Soka University of America

**WEBSITE**
www.soka.edu

**INDUSTRY**
Education

**SOLUTION**
Security

**NETWRIX AUDITOR APPLICATIONS**
Active Directory

**PROFILE**

Soka University of America is a private non-profit liberal arts college and graduate school in the City of Aliso Viejo, Orange County, California. Established in 1987, SUA has been consistently appearing in the top national rankings for Best Liberal Arts Colleges. Founded upon the Buddhist principles of peace, human rights and the sanctity of life, SUA offers a non-sectarian curriculum that is open to top students of all nationalities and beliefs.

> " With granular control over Active Directory changes provided by Netwrix Auditor, now we can make sure that nobody is giving any privileges that weren't meant to be given, and no one is making changes that can potentially compromise our IT infrastructure.
>
> *- Jeff Gardea*
> *Systems Administrator*
> *Soka University of America*

## Challenge: Security Risks Caused by Privileged Users and AD Scripts

### Jeff Gardea

Jeff Gardea is a Systems Administrator at Soka University of America. Jeff Gardea has a bachelor's degree in International Business and CCNA certification in Network Engineering. He is a certified VMware, Cisco and Microsoft professional with more than 17 years of experience in IT, Team Lead and Project Management. At Soka University of America, he is responsible for implementing and troubleshooting Cisco, Microsoft and VMware technologies, as well as supporting a secure storage and server infrastructure for the entire organization.

The IT environment of Soka University of America (SUA) embraces various systems such as Active Directory, VMware and file servers, and has more than 700 active users. A group of 10 IT professionals drives all IT activities at SUA daily, managing the University's networking environment and dealing with over 160 servers.

The key reason why SUA demanded IT auditing software was the growing security risks of privilege abuse and the lack of visibility of changes to Active Directory and Group Policy being made by each system administrator. "We have multiple scripts running on our Active Directory," explained Gardea. "Since the number of events has been too big, we were simply unable to track all the changes manually and, as a result, had an incomplete picture of who does what and who has access to what. Although Soka University has not faced any serious security violations so far, lack of actionable knowledge about AD changes still was a big issue. If we had any kind of insider misuse for some reason, we simply wouldn't have known where it came from and wouldn't have enough time and resources to react properly."

The University IT administrators process multiple requests every day and make regular changes to user accounts and system configurations, so Jeff Gardea was looking in particular for a solution that would enable visibility of their activity. He needed to know exactly what changes were made to Active Directory objects and domains, when those changes were made, and who made them.

## Netwrix Solution: Improved Visibility into Privileged User Activity

When Jeff Gardea decided to start auditing of Active Directory, he considered several vendors. However, none of the available solutions fully suited his needs. Each software had its drawbacks, like bad output or an insufficient level of support. Shortly Gardea came across Netwrix Auditor, and decided to give it a try.

"The installation process was absolutely flawless," said Gardea. "Due to the excellent support of the Netwrix team, we didn't have any problems with deployment of this software. Netwrix support was very helpful throughout the entire installation process and answered all the questions we had. When you start working with a new product, you always expect bugs and compatibility issues. However, this time our fears were in vain."

Regarding product features, Jeff Gardea was primarily interested in real-time alerts and reports about critical configuration changes that may turn into security incidents. Continuous monitoring, reporting, and alerts on all configuration, content, and security changes across the AD enabled the IT department of Soka University to identify easily who changed what, when, and where, as well as current and past configuration settings (e.g., group membership or password policy settings). Eventually, use of these features allowed the IT department of SUA to gain more granular control over the AD infrastructure.

"The reporting capabilities of Netwrix Auditor are truly impressive," added Gardea. "I receive both on-demand and scheduled reports every day; they are clear and easy to read, which is extremely important when you are busy. Indeed, Netwrix Auditor does an excellent job, as it provides complete visibility into applications, processes, and scripts that are making changes to our Active Directory environment. Additionally, we use it to keep track of all group membership changes and clear out accounts that haven't been logged into for a while."

 "Eventually, Netwrix Auditor enabled us to see what is actually going on, how the scripts are running, and what we can troubleshoot in case anything goes wrong," said Gardea. "With an in-depth overview of privileged user activities, now we can make sure no system administrator is giving any access rights that weren't meant to be given, and no one is making changes that can potentially compromise our IT infrastructure."

Report layout, great support from the Netwrix team, and overall reliability of the product are the main reasons why Jeff Gardea would recommend Netwrix Auditor to his colleagues. "Netwrix Auditor has proven itself to be an excellent instrument of internal control," said Gardea. "It does exactly what we want it to do—it works like a charm and keeps us updated on all changes happening across one of our most critical IT systems, so not a single activity is ignored or overlooked."

# About Netwrix Corporation

Netwrix Corporation is the IT auditing company, providing software that maximizes visibility into who changed what, when, where and who has access to what. Over 6,000 customers worldwide rely on Netwrix to audit IT infrastructure changes and data access, prepare reports required for passing compliance audits and increase the efficiency of IT operations. Founded in 2006, Netwrix has more than 70 industry awards and named to the Inc. 5000 list and Deloitte Technology Fast 500. For more information, visit www.netwrix.com

Netwrix Corporation, 300 Spectrum Drive, Suite 1100, Irvine, CA 92618, US

Regional offices: New Jersey, Columbus, London, Sydney

netwrix.com/social

**Toll-free:** 888-638-9749

**Int'l:** 1-949-407-5125

**EMEA:** +44 (0) 203 318 0261