

Netwrix Customer Success Story



CUSTOMER

American Career College

WEBSITE

www.americancareercollege.edu

INDUSTRY

Education, Health Care

SOLUTION

Change Auditing

PRODUCTS

Netwrix Auditor for Active Directory

PROFILE



American Career College Ensures Campus Data Security with Netwrix Auditor for Active Directory

American Career College provides educational opportunities to students in California. Since 1978, American Career College has trained thousands of young specialists for careers in health care. It has steadily grown over the years by adding faculty, curricula, and campuses to address the growing need for highly skilled health-care employees.

“

Netwrix Auditor helps us with reporting on attributes that have changed, and allows us to quickly respond to the events that have the potential of taking us out of compliance.

*- Ofer Amrami
Director, Infrastructure and Operations
American Career College*



Ofer Amrami

Ofer Amrami has been the Director of Infrastructure and Operations for American Career College since accepting his position in early 2012. Ofer is responsible for oversight and management of tactical daily technical operations in support of American Career College. Serving in this capacity, he has been successful in implementing various programs including information security and awareness, identity management, and infrastructure monitoring. Ofer is also tasked with the strategic planning around the areas of infrastructure, IT operations and information security to enable sustainability, flexibility and growth.

Challenge: Ensuring Data Security for Campuses

The need to deploy a change auditing solution arose once Ofer Amrami and his IT team found out that despite all already existing measures to monitor changes in Active Directory, they still had a blind spot in terms of changes made to group policies.

In brief, three members of their IT department are dealing with Active Directory servers, which include 5,000 students and 600 employees. The College has five campuses in Southern California, with one local technician at each.

“The in-house system management tool we have been using before actually had a change management feature,” Amrami says. “However, in terms of daily activities, if a local technician made a change in a group policy that affected users on their campus, we at the IT department would have to dig into the details and try to figure out what has been changed and where.” At that moment, they realized they have been losing time on this simple but still important activity. “We had bad vibes that one day this would result in a potential larger issue,” Amrami admits. “That is why we started looking for an automated solution.”

The problem was due to a challenge in giving the field technicians’ access to Active Directory and allowing them to make changes right from their workplace on their campus. In general, Amrami

was looking for a solution to provide continuous auditing of all those activities. The main requirements were tracking the team’s changes made to the IT infrastructure, notification of malicious changes in Active Directory, and a consequent faster reaction to these kinds of problems.

American Career College is both an educational and health-care organization. They are required to prove that granted permissions are based on a need-to-know basis and ensure that there will be no privilege misuse. Amrami explains, “For example, when somebody changes an attribute for password expiration that is different from normal, or somebody is added to a group of administrators—these events put us at risk.”

Solution: Keep an Eye on Changes Made to Active Directory Easily

When Amrami decided to switch from the old in-house system management tool, he first assessed reviews of other customers on Netwrix. “Most of them were pointing to a very good and easy-to-use product. We had a free trial with Netwrix support team and tested Netwrix Auditor, and everything met our requirements,” Amrami says.

“We were looking for something that is not too expensive, something that is not overly complex, something that can be installed quickly—and Netwrix Auditor met all those criteria,” says Ofer Amrami. “Once we got Netwrix, there were no issues regarding the installation—we were done within 3 hours. It has been one of the smoothest and easiest installs I have had to deal with.”

Regarding the features, Ofer Amrami pointed out that Netwrix Auditor has the ability to audit changes and roll them back—this allows them to extend access rights to field technicians so that they can manage Active Directory and group policies.

Netwrix Auditor addresses compliance and security issues. “We found that Netwrix Auditor could give us a nice snapshot of users that are inactive, having attributes that we did not want them to have, for example, passwords that never expire. Now we have complete visibility of changes that happen in our system and are much more confident in our ability to maintain compliance,” Amrami says.

Proven Results: Complete Visibility Reduces Non-Compliance Risks

“Netwrix Auditor met our initial requirements very quickly. Because we are a small team here, we have spent a lot of time documenting changes made to Active Directory, much longer than we expected. Now the response time to system configurations issues decreased from an average of 8 hours to 1 hour, which is very important to our employees, students, and tech department.”

Exploring the documentation on the product, Ofer Amrami also learned about other useful features: “We have been struggling with the detection of inactive users who have not logged on for more than 60 to 70 days and had default passwords. Netwrix helps us automate the process of changing passwords and takes it out of the risk matrix.”

“Looking at the results, Netwrix Auditor solved the problem we were facing with an in-house solution: it audits changes, provides us with reports and real-time alerts, and helps with a rollback of unwanted modifications—so we can respond quickly to the incidents that put us at risk,” concluded Amrami.

About Netwrix Corporation

Netwrix Corporation, the #1 provider of change and configuration auditing solutions, delivers complete visibility into who did what, when and where across the entire IT infrastructure. This streamlines compliance, strengthens security and simplifies root cause analysis. Founded in 2006, Netwrix is ranked in the Top 100 US software companies in the Inc. 5000 and Deloitte Technology Fast 500. Netwrix software is used by 160,000 users worldwide. For more information, visit www.netwrix.com.

Netwrix Corporation, 8001
Irvine Center Drive, Suite 820, Irvine,
CA 92618, US

Regional offices: New Jersey,
Atlanta, Columbus, London



netwrix.com/social

Toll-free: 888-638-9749

Int'l: 1-949-407-5125

EMEA: +44 (0) 203 318 0261

All rights reserved. Netwrix is trademark of Netwrix Corporation and/or one or more of its subsidiaries and may be registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and in other countries. All other trademarks and registered trademarks are the property of their respective owners.