

# Netwrix Customer Success Story



## CUSTOMER

Clairvaux MacKillop College

## WEBSITE

[www.cvxmck.edu.au](http://www.cvxmck.edu.au)

## INDUSTRY

Education

## SOLUTION

Security

## APPLICATION

Active Directory

## PROFILE



Clairvaux MacKillop College is a secondary school in Upper Mount Gravatt, Brisbane, Australia. With over 1200 students, it is a large college in the Catholic tradition.

## Clairvaux MacKillop College Strengthens Security and Mitigates the Risk of Privilege Misuse with Netwrix Auditor

“*Netwrix Auditor is a powerful solution when you need to get a high-level overview of what's happening across your IT systems, and it has exceeded my expectations. It gives us necessary information instantly when our AD admins make an unauthorized change. That means we can take proactive steps to prevent a significant negative impact on the overall security and make sure that no sensitive data is compromised.*”

- John Cantarella  
Network Manager  
Clairvaux MacKillop College



## John Cantarella

John is Network Manager at Clairvaux MacKillop College. The main areas of his 12 years' experience in the IT sector are information security and awareness policies, change management, and infrastructure monitoring procedures. Prior to joining Clairvaux MacKillop College, he worked as an IT Manager at Bryan Byrt Automotive for 7 years.

# Challenge: Lack of Visibility into Privileged Accounts

Like the majority of educational organizations with a large student community, Clairvaux MacKillop College has to deal with IT security challenges. In particular, IT solutions used in the College should enable its students and employees to access internal documents and share educational materials, while ensuring security of sensitive data such as student and employee records, intellectual property, financial and other sensitive information that should be protected against unauthorized access.

Clairvaux MacKillop College IT network has about 1300 student and 150 employee user accounts in Active Directory. At the beginning and end of the school year, the number of changes to Active Directory (AD) and Group Policy Objects (GPOs) increases dramatically. The IT team had a hard time properly managing all newly created accounts, organizational units and password policies.

The lack of visibility into Active Directory caused two main problems. Firstly, apart from the many in-house IT Administrative users, the College also has contractors who have Active Directory administrator accounts, with extended permissions that can access the College's network remotely. The inability to control what changes all these users were making to AD and GPOs increased security risks, associated with incorrect modifications to AD configuration or misuse of privileges, which could jeopardize the security of sensitive data and integrity of the network.

The second problem was the lack of operational efficiency. The IT team had to spend an enormous amount of time gathering data about AD and GPO changes manually from system event logs. "It was almost impossible to know who had added or removed accounts, groups, permissions," said John Cantarella, a Network Manager at Clairvaux MacKillop College. "It's a disaster if you have no control over your network."

# Solution: Complete Visibility into AD Changes to Minimize Security Risks

When John Cantarella joined the Clairvaux MacKillop College IT team, he had to reorganize and facilitate existing processes to enhance network security. The first thing he intended to do was to increase visibility into all modifications made to AD and GPOs, such as changes to AD accounts, group memberships, and permissions. By that time, John has been using Netwrix Auditor for 7 years during his previous job positions, and he was confident that this solution would help his IT team meet the challenge of timely detection and troubleshooting of unauthorized changes made by privileged users in AD and GPOs. "Netwrix Auditor for Active Directory is one of the best solutions I could ever think of for auditing changes in this critical system," Mr. Cantarella said. "When I introduced it to my team and we had a

trial, it didn't take long to make a decision, because everyone simply liked it. Netwrix Auditor is a powerful solution when you need to get a high-level overview of what's happening across your IT infrastructure, and it was what I needed."

Today Netwrix Auditor helps the College IT team validate internal controls and monitor all changes in AD and GPOs that are made by privileged users, including internal staff and contractors. The IT team now has a clear picture of what is going on in the domain and, if necessary, can easily address questions directly to the person responsible for the modification. To be notified about critical changes, Mr. Cantarella uses automatic custom email reports and real-time alerts. "Netwrix Auditor provides us with necessary information, which is helpful when there are suspicious changes happening, like adding a user to a domain admins group without approval. That means that we can actually take steps to prevent a significant negative impact on the overall security," said Mr. Cantarella.

Netwrix Auditor reports provide full details about every change, such as who made it, when and where it was made, and what exactly was changed with before and after values, in a structured and easy-to-read format. These reports serve as a proof for the College management that there has been no activity that could compromise cyber security. The IT team can now save time and effort on the retrieval and aggregation of audit data, which used to be a time-consuming manual process.

Another reason why the IT team opted for Netwrix solution was the ease of product installation and its fair price, which is important for any educational institution. Full Netwrix Auditor deployment went smoothly, with no extra expenses on hardware upgrades, staff training, or additional assistance from Netwrix support. "I found that Netwrix Auditor was very simple to implement. Often it takes too much time to run and learn how to use a new product, but Netwrix Auditor is fairly intuitive. Within hours, we were able to deploy the solution and start auditing our IT environment," said Mr. Cantarella.

Netwrix Auditor also allowed Mr. Cantarella to achieve an unplanned goal. Using detailed audit trail delivered by Netwrix Auditor, he can identify activities that do not comply with internal policies and make necessary improvements to enforce IT security. "Netwrix Auditor has exceeded my expectations. I honestly find all of the features excellent. Additionally, this product does even more than advertised," concluded Mr. Cantarella.

## About Netwrix Corporation

Netwrix Corporation provides IT auditing software that delivers complete visibility into IT infrastructure changes and data access, including who changed what, when and where each change was made and who has access to what. Over 150,000 IT departments 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 earned more than 70 industry awards and was named to both the Inc. 5000 and Deloitte Technology Fast 500 lists of the fastest growing companies in the U.S. For more information, visit [www.netwrix.com](http://www.netwrix.com).

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