



Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative Saves 50 Hours Every Week on Security Monitoring



THE CHALLENGE

As an energy supplier, GVEC has to ensure the security of its critical IT infrastructure, which is 99% virtualized and includes two data centers, four domain controllers and six SQL databases that contain sensitive corporate and customer data. The IT team’s main concern was to gain visibility into the activity of the 350+ network users in order to mitigate the risk of insider misuse and evaluate its current cyber-security program. Enhanced visibility into the IT infrastructure would enable GVEC to protect both the day-to-day operations of the electrical grid and sensitive customer data.

NETWRIX SOLUTION

Netwrix Auditor was recommended to Matt Huffman, system analyst at GVEC, by a former colleague. After a successful trial, Matt found Netwrix Auditor to be the most suitable solution. “The software hit all my criteria on the nose — it is usable, valuable and cost-effective. It was very easy to set up, and all the reports deliver valid information in the easy-to-read way,” he underlined. Less than four months since its deployment, Netwrix Auditor has already enabled GVEC to achieve the following results:

Centralized control over critical systems. Netwrix Auditor summarizes activity and configuration states across all critical systems, including Active Directory, SQL, Exchange, Windows Server and VMware, in a unified platform. Matt needs only 10 minutes a day to review all scheduled reports and keep tabs on critical changes, such as the modification of a domain controller or the creation of a virtual machine.

Visibility into user accounts. Using the detailed reports provided by Netwrix Auditor, Matt was able to check the current state of user accounts in Active Directory against their previous states. This enabled his team to tie up security loose ends. He explained, “I’ve detected and removed over 50 inactive Active Directory accounts that could be maliciously used by hackers and we would not even recognize it. Moreover, I was fully aware that we had people with elevated rights but did not know where. Netwrix Auditor provided me evidentiary documentation. For instance, I spotted employees with system administrator rights, though it wasn’t their role, and pruned their permissions to minimize insider risks.”

Visibility into SQL databases. Netwrix Auditor consolidates changes made to objects and permissions, along with successful and failed logons, across all SQL servers. “Our SQL contains extremely vital data, such as sensitive customer information and electric meters that we need to bill out our members and customers. But it takes too much time to go from one server to another. I like that Netwrix Auditor shows me all activity in one report. Recently, it helped me detect unauthorized changes made to the data and quickly find an employee who gained DBA rights by mistake,” Matt said.

KEY BENEFITS

- Enterprise-level view of the entire IT environment
- Mitigation of insider threats
- Improved database security

[Learn more about Netwrix Auditor](#)

Since we are an electrical entity, our environment is a target, and we have to keep our security at the highest level. With visibility into what is going on, you can more easily spot malicious activity, as well as clean up the IT department’s internal activity. Shortly after we got Netwrix Auditor, we identified some security gaps and tightened up our procedures and policies. It also helped us create a more efficient IT environment, saving us over 50 hours a week.

**Matt Huffman,
System Analyst,
Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative**

Customer

Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative

Industry

Energy

Website

www.gvec.org

Netwrix Auditor Applications

Netwrix Auditor for Active Directory, Windows Server, VMware, SQL Server

Customer Profile

Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative (GVEC) is one of the largest cooperatives in Texas, U.S. It specializes in delivering electricity, internet services, energy-efficient appliances, AC/heating sales and service, and solar options. GVEC serves over 85,000 consumers throughout South Texas and has been in business for over 75 years.