

Henry County Hospital Proves HIPAA Compliance and Saves up to \$40,000 Annually



THE CHALLENGE

Because it collects and uses protected health information (PHI), Henry County Hospital has to undergo a HIPAA compliance risk assessment every year. To comply with the regulation's rigorous data privacy and security standards, the hospital's IT team needs visibility into privileged user activity and user permissions changes, so they can prevent and mitigate insider threats. Failing to pass a HIPAA audit could result in heavy fines as well a series of more thorough OCR (Office for Civil Rights) checks, which would mean additional workload for the small, four-person IT department.

NETWRIX SOLUTION

To enable the hospital to verify HIPAA compliance through assessments with less effort and expense, the IT team began looking for an efficient solution that could monitor user activity across Active Directory, Group Policy and Windows file servers. Geoffrey Robinson, Server/Storage Administrator at Henry County Hospital, explained that the hospital chose Netwrix Auditor because it provides visibility into all required systems, and also enables video recording of the sessions of privileged users and remote vendors as an additional security layer. Leveraging the software, the team achieved the following results:

Increased accountability of privileged users. Daily reports on all changes across Active Directory and Group Policy, alerts on the most critical ones (such as changes to the Domain Admins group) and the video recording feature enable the hospital to increase user accountability and mitigate the risk of insider threats. In addition, with this information at hand, Geoffrey can address auditors' questions in a timely manner. "During the audit we have to be able to show what was changed and have an explanation of that, because we should know what is going on in our environment and prove that there is no risk to the data," he explained.

Complete control over file access permissions. Prior to the Netwrix Auditor deployment, file server permissions were granted unsystematically, putting data security at risk. Netwrix Auditor's reports and its Interactive Search feature enabled Geoffrey to detect excessive user permissions and rebuild the file server permissions from the ground up. Now he can be sure that sensitive data is accessed only by personnel who need it to perform their roles, reducing the risk of accidental or deliberate misuse that could entail security issues and noncompliance.

Time and cost savings on audit preparations. The complete infrastructure visibility and out-of-the-box HIPAA compliance reports that Netwrix Auditor provides simplify internal processes for preparing for an audit, saving the hospital at least \$40,000 per year. "To do auditing as thoroughly as we are doing it with Netwrix Auditor, we would probably have to hire another full-time employee just to do audits, because there's so much data that we need to keep track of every day," Geoffrey says.

KEY BENEFITS

- Mitigated the risk of insider threats
- Ensured PHI security
- Streamlined HIPAA compliance

[Learn more about Netwrix Auditor](#)

There are so many external and internal threats that you have to be proactive or you are just setting yourself up to be compromised. Netwrix Auditor helped us to monitor everything from privileged user activity across file shares to Active Directory and Group Policy changes that are so hard to track. Basically, the product does everything for you without a lot of manual work and cuts off almost 100% of your time from an auditing perspective.

Geoffrey Robinson,
Server/Storage Administrator,
Henry County Hospital

Customer

Henry County Hospital

Industry

Healthcare

Website

www.henrycountyhospital.org

Netwrix Auditor Applications

Netwrix Auditor for Active Directory and Windows File Servers

Customer Profile

Henry County Hospital in Napoleon, Ohio, US, is a charitable, not-for-profit community hospital that offers a wide range of primary, acute and rehabilitative services to the residents of Henry County and surrounding areas. The hospital provides quality healthcare and wellness services while emphasizing patient-centered care and excellent customer service.