



Johnson County in Kansas Needs Two Minutes, Instead of Two Hours, to Investigate Potential Threats



THE CHALLENGE

The Johnson County IT department is charged with ensuring both the continuity of public services and the safety of the data entrusted to the county, such as cardholder information citizens provide for tax collection and other personal information. To maintain a proper level of security, IT team needed to establish control over its critical systems, Active Directory and Group Policy, and gain better insight into the activity of its more than 3,000 users. After all, if abnormal activity went unnoticed, sensitive data could be exposed, processes crucial for citizens could be disrupted, and residents would lose confidence in the county government.

NETWRIX SOLUTION

After carefully evaluating several products, Jeremy George, system administrator for Johnson County, chose Netwrix Auditor for its ease of use and high performance. "It has a simple, user-friendly interface, but yet it is a very powerful platform. There are a large number of predefined reports telling you what you likely need to monitor. You can also get pretty granular information using Interactive Search," he noted. Netwrix Auditor enabled the IT team for Johnson County to achieve the following results:

Cleaner and stronger Group Policy. Jeremy explained how Netwrix Auditor enabled him to gain better insight into Group Policy and rebuild it: "When building Group Policy, we cloned some policies and applied them to multiple OUs. Therefore, some groups, computers and users had elevated permissions. Netwrix Auditor showed us GPOs with their links and status, so we could find invalid policies and rebuild them."

Identification of obsolete accounts. "In the past, we had terminated employees whose accounts were still active, so they could freely access our network and get the data. It was a security hole just waiting to be exploited," Jeremy said. Using Netwrix Auditor, he has been able to close that security gap by regularly reviewing reports that detail the last logon time for each user account. In fact, he has already found and removed over 300 inactive users.

Faster detection and investigation of suspicious events. Daily summaries on user activity, detailed reports on the most critical changes, and user behavior and blind spot analysis reports enable Jeremy to trace suspicious insider activity faster — investigating a typical incident used to take around two hours, but now he can do it in minutes.

KEY BENEFITS

- Minimizes the risk of security incidents
- Enables the detection of insider misuse in the early stages
- Improves Active Directory and Group Policy structure

[Learn more about Netwrix Auditor](#)

As a government entity, we are a target for both intruders and malicious insiders. In case of a security incident, Netwrix Auditor will show us what is truly going on in the IT environment in just a click of a mouse. Whether we need a full user activity summary or want to investigate a particular event, Netwrix Auditor will quickly provide the results in easy-to-read format, while before it was like looking for a needle in a haystack. The ability to set up alerts on specific events is also invaluable. It is a very powerful solution, absolutely mandatory for any IT person.

Jeremy George,
System Administrator,
Johnson County, Kansas

Customer

Johnson County, Kansas

Industry

Government

Website

www.jocogov.org

Netwrix Auditor Applications

Netwrix Auditor for Active Directory, Windows Server, Windows File Servers, Exchange

Customer Profile

Johnson County, Kansas, U.S., provides a variety of services to its residents through more than 40 offices, agencies, and departments. In addition to the traditional governmental operations of public health and safety, code regulation, and tax collection, Johnson County operates a major intermodal transportation system, twelve libraries, six multi-service centers, a park and recreation district, mental health and developmental support centers, a community corrections program, and a countywide wastewater system.