VARONIS CASE STUDY

Heemskerk Municipality

gemeente Heemskerk

"We are using DatAdvantage to determine the people who own a lot of data so we can then speak to them about their requirements. Using the reports we can show them how much space they are using, including its cost correlation, plus how much of it is actually stale. Together we can then determine if there is a cheaper alternative than housing their data on the expensive cluster"

—Fred Kroone
Network and System Engineer, Heemskerk

THE CUSTOMER

Heemskerk Municipality

LOCATION

Heemskerk, the Netherlands

INDUSTRY

Public Sector – Local Government

Gemeente Heemskerk is a town in the Netherlands, with a population of 39,000. The town's local government, which works together with other local governments, totals approximately three hundred employees. The services provided by the local council are diverse, with various departments who rely on its IT infrastructure. Seven system engineers are tasked with keeping the organisation's IT infrastructure functional and its data secure.

THE CHALLENGE

Heemskerk had two core problems. First, its NetApp storage system held approximately five terabytes of data, and was growing, but it did not have a way to identify files and folders that were stale or unused that could be archived. As a result, its only option was to increase its capacity, which is an expensive alternative.

Fred Kroone, Heemskerk's network and systems engineer, outlines the second issue faced at the start of the project, "We were working with Microsoft Active Directory 2003 and had made the decision to upgrade to Microsoft Active Directory 2008. As you'd expect, we wanted to make the upgrade as easy as possible for all concerned. In order to do this, we needed a way to evaluate our existing users, groups and permission structures so that redundancies and errors could be remediated prior to migrating."

EVALUATION PARAMETERS

During a workshop arranged by their trusted advisor, WeSecure, Fred compared Heemskerk's existing software portfolio against new solutions. He remembers, "It became apparent that not only were the products we were using out of date, but that we would need to fuse three NetApp solutions to try and achieve our objective. By comparison, the results Varonis DatAdvantage could offer would dig much deeper with less effort. We didn't need to look any further."

WeSecure set up a standalone test server for Heemskerk and let it run for one month.

THE SOLUTION

Varonis DatAdvantage combines user and group information taken directly from Heemskerk's Active Directory with the permissions metadata on their file systems to deliver a complete picture of the organisation's access control landscape. Using this intelligence, DatAdvantage can automatically highlight users and groups that are inactive, redundant, or unnecessary and highlight areas where permissions can be safely reduced. This allows Heemskerk to quickly troubleshoot problems, reduce risk, and answer questions about who can access data.

At the end of the trial period, WeSecure presented the findings generated by DatAdvantage to Heemskerk. Fred confirms, "In this session we were shown the detailed information that Varonis had collected about our environment and it was an easy decision. We couldn't wait to get started."

Having had Varonis DatAdvantage installed for just four months, Heemskerk could already quickly and easily identify data that was unused and could be archived or even deleted. Fred adds, "We use DatAdvantage to determine the people who own a lot of data so we can then speak to them about their requirements. Using the reports we can show them how much space they are using, including its cost correlation, plus how much of it is actually stale. Together we can then determine what can be archived and if there is a cheaper alternative than housing all their data on our expensive cluster."

Heemskerk is also utilising DatAdvantage's permissions reporting. As Fred adds, "Before Varonis, when users didn't have rights to access a drive or some applications, it could take a day for us to manually search through permission structures to identify and resolve the problem. Now, when this happens, we use Varonis and, often within minutes, we know where the problem is within Active Directory in terms of user access to directories. As a quick calculation, per instance, we save at least a day each time."

Heemskerk has scheduled about four reports that run each week to provide intelligence to its environment and help resolve issues quickly. For example, there have been several occasions Fred and his team have used Varonis to find data that's been moved or deleted. Fred remembers, "We had one occasion where it turned out to be a system engineer that had moved something, and damaged some installation files. Not only were we able to get it sorted quickly, but we could also see what had happened and determine how to avoid it happening again."

At the end of 2013 Heemskerk will start upgrading to Active Directory 2008 and the plan is to use DatAdvantage's intelligence to determine the current status and identify changes that can be planned and implemented during the upgrade. Mark Vader, also a network and systems engineer for Heemskerk and the project leader for the migration of Microsoft Active Directory 2003 to Microsoft Active Directory 2008, adds "We have a very fragmented file folder naming structure and we plan to address this during the upgrade. We couldn't contemplate this without Varonis to show us our file folder structure, and help grant only the rightful users access to their files and newly named folders."

Moving forward, Fred recognises that he has only scratched the surface with DatAdvantage as he concludes, "It has a lot of options, making it difficult to identify which element to tackle next, but that's a positive. Eventually we hope to introduce Varonis DataPrivilege so that our users can actually manage permissions for themselves."

BUSINESS BENEFITS

EFFICIENT AND COST EFFECTIVE STORAGE OF DATA

Heemskerk can now quickly and easily identify stale data to archive or delete Working with the data owners, it can also be determined if there is a cheaper alternative for housing infrequently used data.

IDENTIFY AND RESOLVE USER ACCESS PROVISIONING

Within minutes, rather than days, Heemskirk can spot and correct permissions issues within Active Directory and across the NetApp environment.

QUICKLY FIND DATA THAT'S BEEN MOVED OR DELETED

On one occasion a system engineer erroneously moved a file and damaged some installation files. Not only was Heemskerk able to resolve it quickly using DatAdvantage's audit trail, but they were able to prevent it from happening again.

ABOUT VARONIS

Varonis is the leading provider of software solutions for unstructured, human-generated enterprise data. Varonis provides an innovative software platform that allows enterprises to map, analyze, manage and migrate their unstructured data. Varonis specializes in human-generated data, a type of unstructured data that includes an enterprise's spreadsheets, word processing documents, presentations, audio files, video files, emails, text messages and any other data created by employees. This data often contains an enterprise's financial information, product plans, strategic initiatives, intellectual property and numerous other forms of vital information. IT and business personnel deploy Varonis software for a variety of use cases, including data governance, data security, archiving, file synchronization, enhanced mobile data accessibility and information collaboration.

Free 30-day assessment:

WITHIN HOURS OF INSTALLATION

You can instantly conduct a permissions audit: File and folder access permissions and how those map to specific users and groups. You can even generate reports.

WITHIN A DAY OF INSTALLATION

Varonis DatAdvantage will begin to show you which users are accessing the data, and how.

WITHIN 3 WEEKS OF INSTALLATION

Varonis DatAdvantage will actually make highly reliable recommendations about how to limit access to files and folders to just those users who need it for their jobs.

START YOUR FREE TRIAL

WORLDWIDE HEADQUARTERS

1250 Broadway, 31st Floor, New York, NY 10001 **T** 877-292-8767 **E** sales@varonis.com **W** www.varonis.com

UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND

Varonis UK Ltd., Warnford Court, 29 Throgmorton Street, London, UK EC2N 2AT **T** +44 0207 947 4160 **E** sales-uk@varonis.com **W** www.varonis.com

WESTERN EUROPE

Varonis France SAS, 13-15 rue Jean Jaures (1er Etage) 92800 Puteaux **T** +33 184 88 56 00 **E** sales-france@varonis.com **W** sites.varonis.com/fr

GERMANY, AUSTRIA AND SWITZERLAND

Varonis Deutschland GmbH, Welserstrasse 88, 90489 Nürnberg **T** +49(0) 911 8937 1111 **E** sales-germany@varonis.com **W** sites.varonis.com/de