



How Varonis is Helping a Property Management Company Protect Critical Files & Streamline Compliance

CASE STUDY



“For us, Varonis is a necessity. It’s the most important solution we have for seeing what’s going on in our network and shared files.”



ABOUT THIS CASE STUDY:

Our client is a publicly-traded commercial property management company. We have happily accommodated their request to anonymize all names & places.

HIGHLIGHTS

CHALLENGES

- Finding and protecting sensitive data and streamlining user permissions
- Proactively detecting and eliminating cyberthreats like CryptoLocker
- Gaining more visibility into files to simplify regulation compliance

SOLUTION

The most robust data security platform:

- **DatAdvantage** for Windows and Directory Services to gain visibility into user access
- **Data Classification Engine** for Windows and SharePoint to isolate sensitive data
- **DatAlert** Suite to find and eliminate potential threats

RESULTS

- Time and effort saved every week monitoring Active Directory
- Reports that make it easy to prove compliance during quarterly audits
- Confidence stemming from a robust threat detection and response system

Challenges

Protecting sensitive data, defending against attacks, and simplifying regulation compliance

A prominent commercial property management company in the U.S. (anonymous by request) adopted Varonis in 2016. According to their SVP, Chief Information and Technology Officer, they had three important challenges that needed solving:

1. **Data Protection** – They needed a way to find and classify sensitive data, like PII, in their servers. They also needed more visibility into who had access to critical files.



“With Varonis, we have a great idea of where our data is and who’s responsible when something gets moved or changed. Before Varonis, we had to hunt for it and do a lot of guessing.”

2. **Threat Detection and Response** – They needed a reliable way to protect their network from attacks like CryptoLocker and monitor Active Directory for potential threats.



“We’re always worrying about users downloading malicious files or clicking on phishing links. We needed controls to help us catch threats before they could take root.”

3. Compliance – As a publicly traded company, they needed to ensure that they were complying with strict auditing and financial regulations, such as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (SOX).



“We’re a public company with a lot of sensitive information in our systems— PII, leases, loans, and other legal documents. And there are Word files, PDFs, spreadsheets, and more. We needed a way to find all of that information, classify it, and keep it safe.”

Above all, they needed a solution that would simplify these processes and enable their small team to stay agile and adaptive.



“It was chaos trying to have multiple people gather information from different sources to prove whether something did or didn’t happen on our network. We needed Varonis’ help.”



“With Varonis, we have a great idea of where our data is and who’s responsible when something gets moved or changed. Before Varonis, we had to hunt for it and do a lot of guessing.”

Solution

Advanced defense for data on-premises and in the cloud

When the company first adopted Varonis, the SVP was worried that they didn't have the capacity to implement and learn a new system. Fortunately, those fears were quickly laid to rest.



“Varonis hooked me up with a consultant that helped me implement the entire system. All the alerting, all the reporting, all the training, all the documentation—they did it all.”

Varonis has since become their most valuable data security solution—especially **DatAdvantage for Windows and Directory Services**, which gives their team more permissions visibility.



“When we need to know a file's location, if it was deleted, or who has access, Varonis gives us the information we need in minutes.”

Combined with **Data Classification Engine**, it's easy for them to identify critical data and remediate permissions. They can also generate comprehensive audit trails that simplify compliance.



“Varonis has streamlined our SOX gathering process. We have around 10 reports that are required for audit every quarter—things like directory group membership, active users, domain users, etc. Gathering all that information used to take a lot of time.”



“With Varonis, it’s like clockwork. We just print the reports, I review them, and off they go. It has cut hours off of our audit time.”

Varonis DatAlert warns their team whenever it detects unusual activity on-premises or in the cloud. By combining knowledge of Active Directory and file server activity, Varonis is able to detect threats before they become full-blown data breaches.



“We have real-time alerting anytime a user’s locked out, a password changes, or there are abnormal login attempts. Anytime something looks suspicious, Varonis sends us an email alert telling us what’s going on so we can investigate.”

In one specific example, DatAlert warned them of a potential attack. It found a server vulnerability caused by a remote desktop protocol device open to the internet. In mere hours, Varonis’ incident response team helped them close down that server and eliminate the threat.



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Results

More visibility, control, and protection for M&A data

When asked whether Varonis saved their team significant time and effort, the SVP of this company was at a loss for words.



“Varonis saves us a bunch of time every week—but it’s hard to tell you how much effort we’ve saved because it’s completely effortless now. We used to have zero visibility; now we have much better intelligence on our users and what they’re using data for.”

Even though this company has only used the data security platform since 2016, the SVP has a hard time imagining losing Varonis and going back to the Dark Ages of data governance.



“For us, Varonis is a necessity. It’s the most important solution we have for seeing what’s going on in our network and shared files.”

“Suffice to say: I need Varonis, it’s my favorite piece of software, and it’s worth every penny. You’re crazy if you think your sensitive data is safe without it.”

With Varonis, it’s easy for the company to prove compliance during each quarterly audit. It’s easy to pivot and respond to potential threats. And it’s easy to reach out to Varonis’ support team if they ever need help.



“We reach out all the time for new projects and queries and reports. They’re very responsive. They’ve got a terrific team at Varonis.”

Now, the SVP is looking to the future. The next thing they’ll be doing is adding more focused threat models to DatAlert to better defend their sensitive data against future attacks.



“The alerts that we have set up right now are terrific. During our next phase, we’ll be implementing additional controls to better understand our threat landscape.”



“Suffice to say: I need Varonis, it’s my favorite piece of software, and it’s worth every penny. You’re crazy if you think your sensitive data is safe without Varonis.”



Don't miss a thing happening with your files on-premises or in the cloud.

Varonis gives you all the visibility, alerts, and context you need to make informed decisions and defend your data infrastructure.

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