



# How PizzaExpress Gains 360-Degree Data Visibility With Varonis

---



We originally bought Varonis to help with our GDPR project, but the value we got goes beyond that. Now, we have this all-seeing eye watching our data, so we can put better controls around it and react to incidents quicker.



## Highlights

### Challenges

- Achieving sustainable GDPR compliance
- Protecting data against ransomware
- Gaining visibility into data shared in Microsoft 365

### Solution

#### Varonis Data Security Platform:

- **DatAdvantage** gives complete visibility and control over your critical data and IT infrastructure
- **Data Classification Engine** finds and classifies sensitive data automatically
- **Policy Pack** enhances Data Classification Engine with GDPR patterns
- **Data Transport Engine** enforces rules for data movement and migration
- **DatAlert** monitors critical systems and detects abnormal behavior

### Results

- GDPR compliance
- Time savings during data migration
- On-prem and cloud data secured

## Challenges

### Locking down data for GDPR compliance

When the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) was announced, one British multinational restaurant group took pains to protect customer data and ensure compliance.

PizzaExpress' primary goal was to gain visibility into their on-prem data stores. They first needed to identify personally identifiable information (PII) and payment card industry (PCI) data before they could lock it down. They turned to **Varonis**.

“

**“We brought in Varonis as part of our GDPR compliance implementation project and to help ensure PCI compliance. We looked at other solutions, but nobody else had the full suite of solutions that Varonis offered,” says Shane Barry, IT Security Manager.**

PizzaExpress' secondary goal was to proactively protect sensitive data against threats. Ransomware attacks were on the rise and they didn't want their restaurants — or their customers — to be the next victims.



**“The major concerns were ransomware, bad actors getting into the network, data exfiltration, and insider threats,” Shane says.**

The final goal was to establish data governance policies that would scale with future growth. This included implementing safe sharing practices and rules for data retention. This was especially important as the business expanded and the company’s reliance on Microsoft 365 grew.



**“We had a big blind spot of what data was stored in Microsoft 365. Sharing PII is a big problem and the cloud makes it easy to click a button and get a link to share data. Even if it’s not malicious, a lot of users do this and they’re none the wiser that anyone with the link can see their data,” Shane explains.**

**“Sharing PII is a big problem and the cloud makes it easy to click a button and get a link to share data.”**

# Solution

## Eliminating data governance blind spots

A Varonis Data Risk Assessment shone a light on the state of the PizzaExpress environment and where data was at risk.

According to Shane, it was the first time he'd ever had so much visibility into the state of PizzaExpress' unstructured data — and such a clear path to fix open access.

“

**“It was really exciting,” he says. “It was the first time I was ever able to instantly view all of our data in a single pane of glass instead of logging into different programs and trying to track everything manually.”**

**DatAdvantage** — the heart of the Varonis platform — quickly proved critical in the company's journey toward compliance. PizzaExpress purchased modules for Windows, OneDrive, and SharePoint Online, to gain the visibility they needed both on-prem and in the cloud. As their needs evolve, Varonis can support future use cases.

“

**“One thing we really like about Varonis is that you can build upon it. You can buy DatAdvantage and then bring in extra modules later as you need them,” Shane says.**

PizzaExpress also purchased **Data Classification Engine** to automatically find and classify sensitive data and **Policy Pack**, which pinpoints GDPR-regulated data. These solutions helped the small IT team quickly and painlessly lock down data in preparation for GDPR, and now they continue to find and classify sensitive data wherever it lives.



**“We were able to quickly identify what sensitive data we had stored. Everything was clearly labeled — PII, PCI, GDPR, etc.,” Shane says.**

With sensitive data under lock and key, Shane and his team began to focus on PizzaExpress’ data retention policies. A Data Risk Assessment revealed that 83 percent of all data had not been accessed in at least 365 days. Shane knew that stale data opened the company up to additional liability and that it’s expensive to maintain, so he advocated for another Varonis solution — **Data Transport Engine** — to help safely remove stale data following best-practice retention policies. It would also help them facilitate data migration to the cloud.

Shane estimates that Data Transport Engine alone saved his team several weeks’ worth of work, and prevented user error from creeping into data migration.




**“Data Transport Engine really saved us time with moving data around. If you’re trying to do things like file server migrations manually, it takes a lot of time. With Data Transport Engine, you click a few buttons, and then off your data goes. This was huge, especially with everyone moving data to the cloud.”**

Finally, PizzaExpress purchased **DatAlert** to monitor all critical systems. DatAlert watches for abnormal behavior, and alerts Shane to any issues it detects, ranging from improperly stored PII to ransomware attacks.



**“DatAlert is my favorite Varonis product because it sits across every other solution, monitoring for problems. For example, we have it monitoring SharePoint, OneDrive, and Teams and we have alerts set up for any data that’s shared publicly. When DatAlert detects PII that’s shared, we can immediately jump on it.”**



**“We were able to quickly identify what sensitive data we had stored. Everything was clearly labeled — PII, PCI, GDPR, etc.”**

# Results

## Sustainable GDPR compliance

With Varonis, PizzaExpress successfully secured its sensitive data in compliance with GDPR before the regulation began in May 2018. Now, Varonis continues to help the company enforce compliance as they grow.

Even though GDPR was the catalyst behind the partnership, Shane says that the benefits of a fully-integrated Data Security Platform are now really paying off.

“

**“We originally bought Varonis to help with our GDPR project, but the value we get goes beyond that. Now, we have this all-seeing eye watching our data, so we can put better controls around it and react to incidents quicker,” he says.**

Shane says that Varonis saves hundreds of hours for his team. Tasks that used to be nearly impossible — like manually remediating permissions on tens of thousands of folders — could now be done with the click of a button.


“

**“Varonis has taken a lot of the manual work out of everything. It’s basically like having another member of the team to constantly watch our data,” he says.**

By putting their data first, PizzaExpress is mitigating the risk of reputational damage and financial loss in the future.

“

**“If you don’t have Varonis, you’re basically putting on a blindfold and covering your ears. The issues still exist, you just don’t know about them. So get Varonis — you won’t be disappointed,” Shane says.**



**“Varonis has taken a lot of the manual work out of everything. It’s basically like having another member of the team to constantly watch our data.”**





# Get 360-degree data protection.

Varonis helps you fix vulnerabilities and meet the highest data security compliance standards.

[Request a demo](#)