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How Varonis Helps a Fortune 500 Holding Company Simplify SOX and GDPR Compliance

CASE STUDY

"Varonis saves me hours and hours and hours every week.
When I think back on the amount of time that I used to spend on
compliance reports, all I can say is it's worth it."

HIGHLIGHTS

CHALLENGES

- Preparing for SOX audits manually was time consuming
- Lack of visibility into file servers and Active Directory increased the risk of exposure
- Manual reporting solutions couldn't scale with growth

SOLUTION

The most robust data security platform:

- **DatAdvantage for Windows, Exchange, and Active Directory** maps user access and simplifies remediation
- **Data Classification Engine** gives visibility into exposed sensitive data
- **Policy Pack** detects data specifically regulated by SOX and GDPR

RESULTS

- Data governance processes that meet international compliance requirements (SOX, GDPR)
- Maintaining data security and privacy in an organization with 5,000+ users
- Exploring **DatAnswers** to make it easier to comply with DSARs

Challenges

SOX compliance and identity access management

When an analyst at a Fortune 500 holding company (anonymous by request) was tasked with reviewing and reporting on Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) compliance, they had their work cut out for them.

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> "We were using another solution before Varonis, but it was very manual. Before every SOX application, I had to go out to each server and run reports separately. I couldn't export data and I basically had to recreate every report each time," they explain.

Preparing for SOX audits was a lengthy and labor-intensive process. The analyst needed to manually verify that only the right people had access, ensure off-site backups of financials met SOX requirements, and prove that they were capable of detecting and defeating security threats.

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> "We need to protect and monitor personal data and sensitive financial information. If somebody gains access, we need to see it."

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As the company grew, keeping up with compliance requirements was quickly becoming impossible. According to the analyst, before too long, pulling data and generating reports was easily "half of their job."

But wasted time wasn't the most alarming problem. What worried the analyst was that their reporting process needed to scale with the company's growth. If it couldn't keep up, they wouldn't be able to meet SOX requirements—or the requirements of international data privacy requirements, like the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

> "We now have over 5,000 users globally. We have to be able to pull that data in a certain amount of time and I'm not sure we would be able to do it without Varonis at this point."

Where the company used to rely on multiple people pulling information from multiple places, now Varonis gives them all the information they need in one centralized dashboard.

"Before every SOX application, I had to go out to each server and run reports separately. I couldn't export data and I basically had to recreate every report each time."

Solution

Taking the pain out of SOX and GDPR compliance

When the analyst needs to gain a prioritized picture of where the company meets compliance requirements and where data is exposed, they're glad to have Varonis.

DatAdvantage's comprehensive dashboard gives the analyst visibility into file servers, Exchange, and Active Directory. With DatAdvantage, it's easy to pinpoint issues like stale data and inactive accounts that are still enabled. They can then take remedial steps quickly and decisively.

Varonis' built-in reporting makes it easy to prove compliance to auditors. The analyst has reports scheduled for automatic delivery and they can also run them on demand.

> "We currently have fifteen SOX applications. I have reports that run automatically every month and then they drop to a file location for each application owner. I used to have to send them an email and give them all of that information manually."

With **Data Classification Engine**, the analyst is also able to look inside files to see regulated and sensitive data—including financial data regulated by SOX. This simplifies the act of discovering and remediating at-risk data in their environment.

> "With these reports, our privacy team can easily detect stale and personal data. They have the information they need to ask questions like 'Is this data still necessary' or 'Why is this sensitive data being stored here?'"

Policy Pack enhances Data Classification Engine by adding new patterns and rules—and it's automatically updated to reflect the latest changes in data privacy laws. For a large multinational company, being able to quickly and accurately detect GDPR-regulated data is a must-have.

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> "I created my own classification rules which went through our systems and labeled all of the sensitive data—SOX, GDPR, PCI, etc."

Finally, as a **Varonis Elite** program member, the analyst has access to a useful forum that meets up once a month to ask questions and gain insight from other community members.

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> "Being able to ask questions and get advice from other people involved with Varonis is great. It's really helpful when I'm trying to figure out something new with reports."

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Results

Compliance reports in minutes instead of hours

For this holding company's security analyst, the ability to discover and report on regulated data in minutes instead of hours is a godsend.

> "Varonis saves me hours and hours and hours every week. When I think back on the amount of time that I used to spend on compliance reports, all I can say is it's worth it."

SOX and GDPR visibility across their entire environment mitigates the risk of data breaches—and the consequent fines and loss of trust.

When a file goes missing or a user is behaving suspiciously, the security team can use Varonis to audit movement and figure out what's going on.

> "Our head of security champions Varonis' forensics capabilities. There are a lot of different pieces to what Varonis can do for us every month. It's great."

As a next step, the company is evaluating DatAnswers which would make searching for specific data a breeze and simplify the process of fulfilling data subject access requests (DSARs) under GDPR.

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"The things I deal with personally are for SOX but the hot topic these past few years has been GDPR. When we need to pull a data privacy report quickly, it's nice to make that process easier."

"When we need to pull a data privacy report within a certain time period, it's always nice to make that process easier."

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Automate SOX and GDPR controls.

Varonis helps you find and fix regulated data—no matter where it's hidden.

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