

**Customer:**

The Alaska State Legislature

Web Site: www.legis.state.ak.us

Number of users: 500

Industry: State Government

Solution:

[Active Directory Change Reporter](#)

Vendor:

NetWrix Corporation

Phone: 888-638-9749

Web Site: www.netwrix.com

Customer Profile:

The Alaska State Legislature is the state legislature of the U.S. state of Alaska. It is a bicameral institution, consisting of the lower Alaska House of Representatives, with 40 members, and the upper house Alaska Senate, with 20 members.

Controlling Active Directory in a Complex Multi-Administrator Environment

“Anytime we have a question of how an account was changed, the NetWrix solution helps us to figure out who changed it and when, and then find out from them why.”

Shay Wilson, Network Administrator of the Alaska State Legislature IT Department.

With a total of 60 lawmakers, the Alaska State Legislature is the smallest, but one of the most effective bicameral state legislatures in the United States. The Legislature’s IT team has several independent groups of administrators that manage Legislature’s Active Directory. The IT team discovered that changes made to the Active Directory were sometimes damaging, requiring the department to seek a solution that expanded its visibility into what changes were made and who made them. Keeping track of such changes was significant in the prevention of both numerous email storms and the unnecessary undoing of valid changes, due to misunderstandings between IT administrators. These issues stemmed from the department’s inability to trace effectively the activities of 17 IT administrators back to their origins.

Challenge: Inability to Trace Changes within Active Directory

Active Directory change auditing is an important procedure for limiting accidental and unauthorized changes in Active Directory, because even one single incorrect change can put an organization at risk, introducing security breaches and compliance issues. The Alaska State Legislature’s IT team understood the significance of change auditing, but lacked the capacity to implement it. The team needed to find a proven solution to manage, monitor, and audit any and all changes made within its Active Directory. “We have 3 distinct and independent groups that have access to make changes in Active

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Directory,” said Shay Wilson, Network Administrator at the Legislature. “Sometimes there are changes made that are detrimental in some way, and we needed a way to trace what changes had been made and who made them. The groups had numerous email storms when something went wrong in AD, and they couldn’t figure out why it happened and who did it.”

Solution: Active Directory Change Reporter

The Alaska State Legislature’s IT team turned to Active Directory Change Reporter (ADCR) to solve its aforementioned problem. With ADCR, the IT team discovered that it had access to a proven tool for Active Directory audit reporting which delivered detailed information on a daily basis about any and all changes that were made to the Active Directory—including the crucial Who, What, When, and Where questions for all changes, as well the “before” and “after” values for each and every setting. ADCR provided the team with a report that listed changes made to Active Directory. The data that ADCR is able to generate is now playing the lead role in the team’s ability to monitor and audit day-

to-day administrative activities.

“We had considered using home-built VBS scripts, but they were difficult to make, clunky, and hard to maintain,” said Shay Wilson. “NetWrix tools are easy and very affordable. Anytime we have a question of how an account was changed, we can figure out who changed it and when, and find out from them why. It is much easier with Active Directory Change Reporter than trying to ask 17 busy people if they know the answer. This has also prevented us from undoing changes that were necessary, but we didn’t know why until we spoke to the admin who changed it. I have also received quick and responsive service from the NetWrix support team whenever I do have questions (usually about new products).”

Conclusion

The power to monitor and limit any changes and errors to the Active Directory configuration is essential in today’s enterprising world, in which compliance and the prevention of security breaches are paramount. These capabilities save companies time and money by streamlining the ability to see such changes,

which was the case with the Alaska State Legislature. Without such capabilities, tracing a single change back to a specific administrator would otherwise be a costly, time-consuming process. The Alaska State Legislature simply could not afford to halt and slow productivity. With Active Directory Change Reporter, the Alaska State Legislature’s IT team was given a viable tool to detect all Active Directory changes on the most detailed level. The end result for the team was improved Active Directory management capabilities across the board—resulting in a rapid ROI.

About NetWrix Corporation

Established in 2006, NetWrix Corporation provides innovative and cost-effective solutions which simplify and automate the management of Windows networks. With in-depth knowledge and experience managing Windows environments of all sizes, the company delivers solutions to meet complicated business requirements, while fulfilling the best expectations of IT professionals.