

New Product First Look

SKYVIEW PARTNERS INC.

SkyView Policy Minder



We asked Dan Frissora to take a look at our new SkyView Policy Minder for AIX product and give us his first impressions. Dan was recommended to us by an associate and has a varied background in IT and leadership. Dan is recognized worldwide for ethical leadership of business and team relationships including custom benchmarking with global partners and customers that included Tenant Healthcare, Cardinal Health, Telecom New Zealand, JP Morgan Financial, Staples, UPS, China Merchant Bank and Saturn. He has received multiple awards for exemplary projects. He's presented for diverse audiences in the USA, France, UK, Austria, Belgium, Mexico and Japan. Dan specializes in IT Security and General Control Reviews (GCRs) and SAS70 audits. In his SAS70 work he audited companies to ensure they had proper controls in place to properly protect business and personal information. Dan's experience includes: contracted consulting IT generalist for LarsonAllen, consulting IT specialist and delivery principal for IBM, international assignee work for IBM and more. Given Dan's background with a wide variety of companies and in multiple disciplines, we asked him to spend time with our newest product, SkyView Policy Minder for AIX.

Our intent with SkyView's Policy Minder for AIX product is to take a new approach to security policy compliance and security administration. Until now, most AIX shops have relied on UNIX scripting capabilities to setup each new partition, monitor it, maintain it and report on it. The number of AIX partitions is growing at a very fast rate in many organizations. Each one of these partitions needs to be configured from a security perspective before they are ready for production. The problem isn't so much writing the scripts to accomplish the task as it is the manual labor involved in maintaining the scripts, securely connecting to the various partitions, then uploading and executing the scripts, all to set only the initial configuration. If the new partitions fall under compliance reporting requirements than administrators will also need to run reports to gather the data and then spend time concatenating the information and getting it into some human-readable format.

With SkyView Policy Minder for AIX, all this can be accomplished through a web-based console. Security Policies can be configured, compliance with these policies checked, deviations from policies fixed and reports generated in PDF or CSV format - all from a web-based console which access to all of your partitions. The results are: improved productivity ((through time savings), increased accuracy (by eliminating the human factor in many instances) and improved efficiency (by eliminating the need to gather and reformat information into usable reports.)

Dan spent time with the product during the early phases of beta testing through to general availability. Dan commented, "It is from my experience at the many different companies I've worked with, as I consulted for various partners, that the power of the SkyView Policy Minder for AIX toolset was driven home. My clients were generally small (\$10-\$100M), generally not well staffed, and usually not very technical. Frankly, most were Wintel based, but I did come across a few AIX/Unix/ and I companies. As I think of those clients, I can't help but say that I am impressed with the simplicity and

DATE OF GENERAL AVAILABILITY

SEPT 2011

Security Compliance and Security Administration made easy.



Introductory pricing for orders placed before the end of 2011

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power of this tool. I've done a number of (high level) security practices reviews/audits as a consultant for a CPA firm and this tool would be a huge benefit for both the auditors and clients. "

Dan further stated, "The Policy Minder AIX tool both makes visible and manageable hundreds of parameters that are important for effectively managing the security of the server environment. I am a huge believer in tools: They promote efficiency, consistency and thoroughness. When the tool is easy to use, it will be used. I like what SkyView has."

Dan shared some thoughts about SkyView Policy Minder for AIX:

From a technical perspective:

- Management parameters are centralized and explained with the bubble text. Policy Minder AIX allows system admins to explore the various parameters as they could using a 'command prompt' on other systems. The product greatly reduces my learning curve. Trying to figure out the appropriate AIX/Unix command and syntax can be rather distressing to the technically inexperienced, much like the clients I've worked with that have Wintel experience but little UNIX experience. For security policy compliance and security administration Policy Minder AIX solves that problem.

From an 'Auditor' perspective:

- 'Consistency'. The Import/Export function, built into the product, allows a firm to build and propagate a control set across the enterprise
- 'Control' . The product features a single point of control to manage (and audit) the settings.
- The 'Baseline' capability of the product gives an important control point for the system admin.
- The tool is authorized to make changes through FixItt. This reduces the number of people who are allowed to and need to be monitored.

Logging makes it easy to review the system admin's actions (or lack thereof).

Dan's first impressions gave us some valuable feedback on what is appealing about this product. His help through our testing cycle gave us input that helped refine and harden the product to create a very useful tool for AIX system admins as they deal with the ever growing number of partitions in the IT enterprise.

SkyView Policy Minder for AIX is available for download.

Contact SkyView via the web at www.skyviewpartners.com, and register for a login.

SkyView offers free, 60 day, fully functioning evaluation copies.