

SkyView Policy Minder Helps Quixtar Take the Guesswork Out of Security Compliance

Security compliance is a hot-button issue for every company these days, including Grand Rapids, Michigan-based Quixtar (quixtarnewsroom.com), a sister company to Amway, which supports independent businesses in North America. When faced with a Payment Card Industry (PCI) compliance project, Quixtar, which offers a business opportunity that allows people to have a business of their own based on retailing products and sharing the opportunity with others who will do the same, decided to take advantage of the opportunity to see how well its security protocols compared with industry best practices.

In order to see how it was doing, Quixtar decided to use SkyView's Policy Minder for i5/OS and OS/400, a policy-compliance management tool that makes monitoring and maintaining the implementation details of a company's security policy easier. Keeping track of who has access to company systems and data is a priority for Quixtar, and SkyView's Policy Minder gives Quixtar the ability to keep an eye on the security aspects with which the company is most concerned, says Steve Mulder, Quixtar's lead systems support specialist. In particular, Policy Minder can be used to automate the management and repair of user profile settings, library authorities, file authorities, directory authorities, system values, and more to make sure a company is in compliance with its security policy.

Quixtar, which is in the midst of implementing Policy Minder, currently uses the tool to keep track of changes and make sure that everything stays in compliance. Quixtar staff can record the security configuration they expect certain files to have, and Policy Minder goes through daily and makes sure that the ownership, authorities, and other security attributes are all met. Such changes in security attributes can occur during standard maintenance processes and are an extremely common problem with large and complex systems such as Quixtar's, which has hundreds of users and workloads running on different platforms. "Over time, if you don't have a tool like this, it becomes very difficult to manage a system like ours as it grows," Mulder says.

If something changes and an object is no longer properly secured, Policy Minder will pick up on the change and bring it to the security administrator's attention. Not only does this process let Quixtar find potential problems before they cause real security issues, but it also gives the company the opportunity to streamline its maintenance processes to prevent things from going wrong in the first place. "The tool reminds us of any exceptions every day, so nothing slips through the cracks," Mulder says.

Once Policy Minder is fully implemented, it will run quietly in the background and automatically notify the



system administrator of any changes that violate the company's security policy. "We're trying to do more with less," Mulder says. "We don't want to have to go looking

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for problems; we always want problems to come to us." Policy Minder can also be used to facilitate the implementation of object-level security by automating the process of setting public, private, and authorization list authorities, and Mulder is optimistic that the tool will be useful in proving security compliance in case of an audit.

SkyView's Policy Minder has given Quixtar an efficient way to monitor its security policy and has taken the guesswork out of security compliance. □



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