

Real Estate Development Company Streamlines IT Audit Reporting and Closes Security Holes with UMPS

Customer Profile

This company is one of the top residential developer firms in the US. Its developments currently house facilities for nearly 100 companies listed on the Fortune 500 or Global 500.

Situation

To pass IT audits and improve security, the company needed a tool that could audit and control NTFS file permissions and local administrator privileges.

Solution

Lieberman Software's User Manager Pro Suite was deployed to servers and workstations throughout the company's multi-site network.

Result

The company is now effectively running all required IT audit reports and locking down any identified security holes.

On day one of his new job at a commercial real estate development firm, the IT Security Engineer resolved to find a good IT auditing tool for NTFS file permissions and administrative privileges.

"I was hired to help the company improve its security and meet IT audit requirements," he said. "I recognized immediately that to bolster our security processes and make sure we hit our audit points, we needed a tool that could find and report on all NTFS permissions on the network."

The Situation

Recognized as one of the top commercial real estate investors and developers in the nation, this firm's success is supported by a growing and increasingly complex IT infrastructure. The IT group manages servers, workstations and devices in a cross-platform enterprise, across multiple physical sites. IT personnel are charged with passing internal IT audits and annual regulatory compliance mandates, including banking audits.

"We have a lot of important IT audits every year, but the banking audit is the big one," the IT Security Engineer said. "The auditors want to know who has permissions on each file share, and who has administrative privileges on each computer. To make these audits more efficient, I needed a tool that could locate any file, any share, any local security policy – anywhere in the company."

With his objective defined, he set off on a proof of concept. He evaluated several tools, documenting the performance and features of each in detail. When he tallied the scores, User Manager Pro Suite (UMPS), from Lieberman Software, was the winner.

The Solution

"Most of the tools were Active Directory-focused and did very little with anything else," the IT Security Engineer said. "However, UMPS had everything I wanted. It gave me all of the auditing reports I need, all the way down to the granular level of nested groups on every single file."

UMPS is a suite of Windows security management tools that can modify groups, rights, registry settings and local administrator passwords en masse, and provides real-time, interactive reports for the system data it collects. And, as he discovered, the software's extensive, audit-ready reports help organizations verify that they are meeting and maintaining strict regulatory compliance standards.

"Deploying UMPS was extremely straightforward," the IT Security Engineer said. "You can easily set up dynamic management sets for the groups of systems you want to manage. It lets you use Active Directory to populate your system sets or scan IP ranges to do it. UMPS automatically updates the groups, so you don't have to constantly worry about adding and removing systems."

The Result

Once UMPS was deployed, he started running advanced reports – for both internal and external audits.

“UMPS allows us to find and report on any NTFS file permissions or administrative privileges, for example. We can set up automated reports every day, every week, or however often we want. These reports can be pushed out to our auditors or to our internal IT department. We can also run ad-hoc reports whenever necessary.”

In one instance, an executive needed to know who had rights on a particular file share with highly sensitive information. The IT Security Engineer ran a report that revealed precisely which groups had rights to access every particular item within that folder.

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“The report gave the executive literally every piece of information he needed to know,” he said.

Another time, the company’s executives wanted to find out which users and groups had local administrator privileges on every system.

“With UMPS I was able to identify everyone on our entire network who had administrative privileges,” the IT Security Engineer said. “That was significant because it allowed us to rectify a lot of problems. We discovered that there were many people who had elevated privileges who never should have had that level of access. We locked that down and removed administrator privileges in cases where it wasn’t necessary.”

He was able to populate the group, set up the report and then run the report in less than 30 minutes. He cites the speed of UMPS as another significant benefit.

“Using UMPS to pull an advanced report with nested groups never takes more than a couple of minutes. It would take a couple of weeks to do these same tasks manually – even with multiple people.”

In addition to identifying who has administrative privileges, UMPS lets the real estate firm track and change all of the powerful local administrator passwords on the network. This prevents insider threats and external attackers from exploiting old administrator passwords to access systems and steal valuable data.

Summary

Since using UMPS, there hasn’t been a single IT auditing project that the product hasn’t been able to accomplish for the IT Security Engineer’s team.

“In fact,” he said, “if I were to speak with colleagues in my industry about their IT auditing tools I would ask them, can your tool report on nested groups? Can it find anything from across the domain? Can it identify who has local admin privileges? If it can’t do all of those things I’d definitely recommend UMPS. We get great value from it.”

About Lieberman Software Corporation

Lieberman Software provides privileged identity management and Windows security management solutions to more than 1200 customers worldwide, including 40 percent of the Fortune 50. By automatically discovering and managing privileged accounts everywhere on the network, Lieberman Software helps secure access to sensitive systems and data, thereby reducing internal and external security vulnerabilities, improving IT productivity and helping ensure regulatory compliance. The company developed the first solution for the privileged identity management space, and its products continue to lead this market in features and functionality. Lieberman Software is headquartered in Los Angeles, CA with an office in Austin, TX and channel partners throughout the world. For more information, visit www.liebsoft.com.



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