

CASE STUDY Drees Homes

NetVision

Customer Profile

Drees Homes is the twenty-second largest home builder in the country, and the sixth largest private builder in the country. The company began as a small home builder in northern Kentucky, then expanded to the Cincinnati metropolitan area and became the biggest builder in Cincinnati while continuing to move into other geographical markets.

Drees now builds homes or develops land in Texas, Washington D.C., Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina; and Ohio. Although most of its work is in residential building, the company also builds and manages apartments and town homes, builds commercial property, and undertakes commercial renovation.

The Challenge

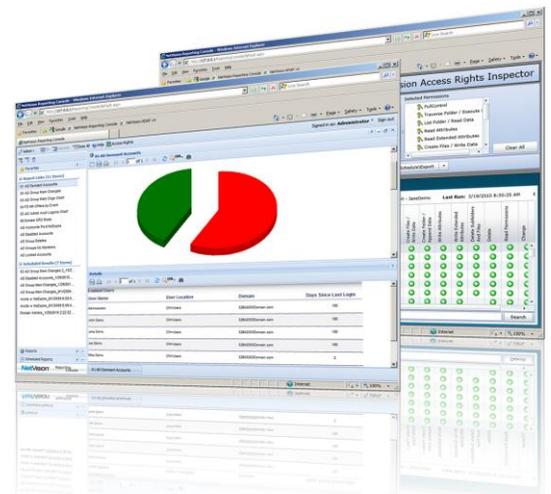
With more than 650 employees spread throughout various regions of the country, Drees Homes needed to gain more visibility into, and control over, activity in its network. Specifically, the company wanted a better reporting system that could help its IT staff understand system-level administrative changes, user/intruder access, and enforced policies, and deliver important information such as date/time stamps and other historical data that could help streamline the response to audits.

The Drees network leverages Novell eDirectory as its primary directory service and needed a solution that would provide comprehensive coverage for the eDirectory platform. Drees' business need for actionable information drove the company to search for a solution that could help it achieve its goal of improving audit procedures.

The Solution

Drees considered several options before choosing NetVision's SIMON access and reporting solution. The company was attracted to SIMON because of its simplicity and low cost. A managed service for monitoring and reporting of identity and access information, SIMON doesn't require the time, effort, expense and expertise to deploy and maintain that traditional software-based solutions do.

Once Drees decided upon the solution, NetVision simply installed, configured and customized SIMON according to Drees' specific environment and needs, and the company's IT staff was immediately able to begin obtaining critical information about who had access to what resources and how they were able to gain that access.



www.NetVision.com

SIMON automatically extracts and aggregates information from Drees' eDirectory by monitoring user accounts, access rights, administrative changes, and user activity. Drees' IT staff are able to monitor account activity such as password and group membership changes, system configurations, and a range of other identity variables of their choosing by simply logging into the web-based SIMON reporting interface. By actively alerting and reporting on changes to user objects, account status, group memberships or virtually any policy violation in real time, SIMON enables Drees to remediate events or security breaches in real time while also providing the ability to save data for future audits or analysis.

“We are very happy with SIMON, and with the efficiency gains we've achieved by using it,” said Reynolds. “SIMON has given us the ability to respond to security events and audit requests quickly and accurately, which has made a big difference in our bottom line.”

The Results

NetVision's SIMON has delivered significant benefits to Drees since its implementation. The company has reduced the time and effort associated with yearly audits and significantly streamlined the review process for user/system-level activity, while increasing its overall enterprise security.

“Reporting and monitoring have been significantly improved since implementing SIMON. The ability to track user activity has been very valuable, as has the option to customize reports to our unique requirements,” said Cheryl Reynolds, systems manager at Drees Homes. “NetVision's technical support has been impressive as well – the team is very responsive and knowledgeable.”

SIMON has enabled Drees to achieve – and even exceed – its security goals. With SIMON, Drees' IT staff has easy, immediate access to up-to-date, accurate identity information, which has reduced the time spent on annual audits. The improvement in reporting and monitoring has led to greater IT operational efficiency and productivity.

NetVision offers access rights reporting solutions that enable organizations to easily and automatically obtain the most relevant and actionable information needed to protect their assets, mitigate risk, and reduce the cost and complexity of compliance and audit. NetVision's patented technology platform combines advanced event filtering with real-time monitoring, from-the-source data collection and a powerful and flexible reporting engine to deliver immediate answers to critical identity and access rights questions. Since the company's founding in 1995, more than 600 companies around the world have used NetVision to improve security, reduce risk, and enhance operational efficiency.