



Solution at a Glance

Install Symantec's Security Manager solution in a complex environment.

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Company

The company is a world leader in the newsprint and commercial printing paper industry, and a leading manufacturer of wood products, operating 45 facilities that supply customers in 70 countries. It also ranks among North America's largest recyclers of newspapers and magazines, keeping close to 2 million tons of used paper out of landfill sites every year.

Challenge

The coming into force of Bill 198 requires public companies to implement procedures and to employ a secure infrastructure for ensuring the reliability, integrity, and accessibility of their financial information. In order to meet these new standards, the company had to bring its 200 servers into compliance. Considering the risk of system crashes during deployment, introducing a standards compliance solution and security policies in this type of environment is a highly complex task. Taking into account the massive scale of the infrastructure and the risks associated with complete deployment, ESI started out by installing the solution on five servers. Only three weeks were allotted for this phase, which made this already daunting challenge even more complex. In addition, even though the chosen solution includes predefined control models, ESI was faced with the painstaking task of adapting these models so that they would be compatible with the company's compliance standards.

Solution

The solution that ESI proposed was Symantec's Security Manager. This is the only solution that allows for centralized and automatic detection of security flaws and policy violations on the company's servers and in its strategic e-business applications at every level.

It utilizes more than 1,500 controls to test the security of applications and operating systems.

ESI's first step was to examine the company's existing applications.

The predefined models for testing controls that the solution contains had to be integrated with the company's specific requirements. ESI created policies based on the control standards that are required by law and by the company's constraints. These policies were then installed and run on the five test servers, in order to verify the degree of compliance of all strategic applications. Following this analysis, ESI added patches in order to bring each application into compliance, and then tested the policies on the five servers after the patches had been applied. In this way, every application was tested before being installed on all of the company's servers. The final stage involved propagation to the company's 200 servers. The extreme complexity of this project was a function of the execution time. Installation was to take place during business hours, and therefore, any losses resulting from a system failure would have meant huge costs for the company.

Results

Installation of the new compliance policies on the company's 200 servers was flawless, and caused no major interruptions. ESI succeeded in bringing all of the company's strategic applications throughout its network into compliance within the specified timeframe. The company is now fully compliant with Bill 198.

About ESI Technologies

ESI Technologies is a leading mission critical infrastructure integrator and software solutions developer in Canada. ESI specializes in the development, integration and support of quality solutions that ensure the availability, security, management and performance of critical data, applications and networks. As well, ESI develops software solutions tailored to our client's specific business needs and offers integrated business management solutions such as Action, MBS and Oracle. ESI Technologies is headquartered in Montreal, with offices in Toronto and Quebec City.