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Hansen's Cuts Sarbanes-Oxley Reporting Time from Two Months to One Day Using Visual Click's Products

Tools Help Ease Transition from Novell to Windows

Background:

Hansen's Beverage Co., a manufacturer of energy drinks, fruit juices and sodas, needed to address the demanding requirements of Sarbanes-Oxley reporting. The company's IT department found a solution for this pressing issue in Visual Click Software's DSRAZOR and DSMETER products.

Hansen's outstanding success with its Monster Energy brand drinks and other products led to rapid company growth in recent years. Based in St. Corona, California, the company currently has 500 users on its network. This rapid expansion has created challenges in terms of ensuring that proper controls and security measures are in place. In addition, the company migrated from Novell to Windows and needed tools for account, password and security management.

Having the right network management tools has enabled Hansen's to smartly address its migration and reporting challenges. Most impressively, the firm has reduced reporting time from two weeks to two hours. On an annual basis, reporting has been cut from two months to a single workday. And Hansen's is the kind of company that recognizes the value of such a remarkable "performance boost".

Challenge: Confronting Sarbanes-Oxley Requirements

Kimberly Combest joined Hansen's in December 2005 as the firm's Systems Administrator. She soon learned that the company's IT organization needed to improve its approach to network security and reporting.



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**Kimberly Combest,
System
Administrator for
Hansen’s.**

As a publicly-traded company, Hansen’s faces the rigors and risks associated with Sarbanes-Oxley legislation. It was critical that they produce accurate reports demonstrating the diligence of the company’s IT controls and procedures. On a quarterly basis, the auditor required reports on all user mailboxes, passwords, and account usage. It is vital that Hansen’s enforce and maintain proper precautions against any misuse of information.

Combest explains, “We were experiencing phenomenal growth. We were – and are – facing a great deal of demands. But our reporting methods weren’t up to the task. Our approach to reporting involved a great deal of copying and pasting into Excel spreadsheets. It was haphazard, and the output didn’t look very professional. It was also very time consuming. Reports would take about two weeks to produce.”

With the alacrity of Hansen’s expansion, time was of the essence. As the IT group migrated from Novell’s eDirectory/NDS to Microsoft’s Active Directory in 2005, the pressure to address this problem increased. “We had to keep up with our normal work, but the demand for new reports kept intruding,” adds Combest. “It seemed like we’d finish one report at the end of the quarter and it would be time to start working on the next one.”

Addressing these reporting challenges became crucial for the success of Combest’s team. It was becoming increasingly clear that if they could find tools to create the necessary reports expediently, the IT staff would have more time and resources to devote to their other responsibilities.

Action: Investing in Visual Click Solutions

“It all came from running these reports and getting bogged down,” says Combest. “We had to find something that would streamline our approach.”

Given the ever-increasing demands on the IT department and the high stakes associated with Sarbanes-Oxley reporting, the current approach was unacceptable. Combest and her team were determined to find a method that would satisfy their criteria.

After reviewing a host of reporting tools, the company purchased Visual Click’s DSRAZOR and DSMETER products. The pricing attracted them to these tools; what clinched the deal was their ease of use. They produced reports quickly that could be customized easily – much more easily, in fact, than with other, more expensive tools.

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In the fall and winter of 2006, Hansen's implemented several Visual Click products, including DSRAZOR for Windows, DSRAZOR for eDirectory/NDS and NetWare, DSRAZOR for GroupWise, and DSMETER for NetWare. These tools enabled the IT group to address its reporting challenges as well as the day-to-day challenges associated with network and account efficiency.

Visual Click's support team assisted Ms. Combest's group in customizing new reports and rolling out new applets. "They are awesome," she says. "Every time I would have a question about getting this or that, I'd get a rapid response. Even when they were unable to address a particular issue immediately, they would be upfront about it. The issue, however, would tend to be resolved in the next update of the software."

Results: Reduced Time and Costs, Improved Security

Hansen's biggest payoff in its investment in Visual Click products happened quickly. The company accelerated the time associated with Sarbanes-Oxley reporting from two weeks to two hours. Considering that such reporting is required each quarter, this translates into a decrease in total reporting time from two months to a single workday.

While the organization's IT group produces a total of 20 reports, 10 of them are produced using Visual Click's products. "We were given three weeks to produce these reports in the past," says Combest. "Now I can produce them faster, make them look more professional and present them earlier. This alleviates a lot of stress – my stress and management's stress too. They now have more time to look the reports over and ensure we don't get nailed for anything that is overlooked."

Over time, Hansen's has realized additional benefits from using Visual Click products. For instance, the tools have enabled Combest and her team to set up new GroupWise mailboxes and update accounts more quickly and efficiently than before. The processes of monitoring logons, network usage, group membership and password changes are also streamlined. "We are able to get mailbox counts and see how fast we are growing," she says. "It is easier to maintain accounts and know what is active for security purposes. It enables us to assess everything on the network."



As the company continues its transition from Novell to Windows, Visual Click products help document group memberships, ensure there are no duplicate accounts and create a single, unified and closely managed network environment. "It has saved me a lot of time and headaches," says Combest. "Time that would have been spent tracking down accounts and changes can now be reinvested in more productive activities. I'm happier, and so is management, because we are getting more done."

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About Visual Click Software, Inc

Envisioned in 1996 and incorporated in 1999, Visual Click is the leader and pioneer in visually customizable computer network security access management and reporting applications.

Network Security Access Management: Our patented Visual Designer Technology allows for customer- specific applications to be developed in minutes rather than days, weeks or months. This powerful technology creates a new paradigm in network security access management. Previous technology either required use of overly large and complex 'consoles' that performed slowly and required product-specific training or required customized programming.

Our technology allows customers to create exactly what they need to control their network security access management without burdening the Administrator or requiring custom computer programming costs.

Network Security Reporting: Our patented Visual Designer Technology allows for customer-defined reports to be developed in minutes with very little training. This powerful technology allows the Network Administrator to focus on the important matters of securing a network. With minor customizations, each Network Security Report can simultaneously be used for Network Security Access Management. Each Network Security Report can also be used to change the Network Security issues it uncovers. This important technology solves two problems at the same time, namely, reporting about Network Security non-compliance and enforcing corporate Network Security policy.

Customer Benefits: Exceeding customer expectations is our number one goal. We know time is a resource that most IT professionals have in short supply. For this reason, our software is designed to reduce errors and minimize training costs, thereby freeing up valuable time to focus on more mission-critical tasks. From simplifying user management and maintaining regulatory compliance, to preparing for migration and delegating helpdesk duties, our software empowers our customers by saving them time and money associated with managing their networked environments.

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