Case Study

CDHY chooses ADAudit Plus to stand against cyber threats

Company:
Washington Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth (CDHY)

Industry:
Public

Location:
United States

About Washington Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth

Since 2009, the Washington Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth (CDHY) has been committed to ensuring all deaf and hard of hearing students in Washington reach their full potential. As a statewide resource, its mission is to provide leadership and support for education programming to children who are deaf and hard of hearing, their families, and service providers who support them.

Security challenges

In 2023, CDHY became the victim of a sophisticated ransomware incident. The organization discovered disruptions in its endpoints on December 14 and determined it was under an attack on December 16. CDHY notified the FBI and the Washington State Patrol of the incident.

As the investigation progressed, the organization identified that individuals both within and outside of the immediate CDHY community might have impacted. Personally identifiable information, like name, Social Security number, birth date, and driver's license and state identification card number, was extracted by hackers who demanded a ransom.

From this incident, CDHY understood the reality of today's cyber environment. It needed an auditing solution that could instantly detect incidents, notify in real time, and audit how the incident occurred and the measures taken to mitigate it.

Why ManageEngine ADAudit Plus became CDHY's auditing solution

- **Threat detection:**
  The primary reason CDHY chose ADAudit Plus was the solution's Attack Surface Analyzer module. Attack Surface Analyzer offers organizations in-depth insights for 25+ common Active Directory (AD) attacks, including the detection of ransomware attacks. The feature provides curated evidence reports for each attack along with the activities performed using the exploited account. This made the agency prepared not just for threat detection but with conducting root cause analysis and performing comprehensive auditing once an incident occurs.

- **Real-time notification:**
  ADAudit Plus offers real-time alerts on incidents and changes made to an AD environment. This feature allowed CDHY to create customized alerts for its environment. Additionally, the feature helped CDHY initiate a prompt response in the event of an attack, such as executing a script to block the malicious user or shut down the compromised endpoint.

- **Compliance reporting:**
  ADAudit Plus has in-built reports for major IT compliance mandates like SOX, the PCI DSS, and HIPAA. Admins can export these reports any time and schedule them to be sent to inboxes periodically, making CDHY compliant and audit-ready.

> **❝❝** *We were not aware of the changes happening in our AD environment. But now, we have complete visibility thanks to ADAudit Plus!*
>
> **Mark Lee**
> System administration and architecture CDHY

How CDHY customized ADAudit Plus with OnboardPro

CDHY had an ideal solution in ADAudit Plus but wanted an implementation that could solve for its unique business requirements and objectives. That's why CDHY used OnboardPro, ManageEngine's exclusive professional services for IAM and SIEM solutions. Product Expert Bruce implemented the solution just as the agency required, addressing Mark's technical doubts about the Attack Surface Analyzer and alerting feature.

> **❝❝** *Bruce was excellent. Any questions we asked, he answered them perfectly. I have already recommended OnboardPro to my fellow organizations and I would definitely recommend everyone to choose OnboardPro.*
>
> **Mark Lee**
> System administration and architecture CDHY

About OnboardPro

OnboardPro is a ManageEngine service that provides solution implementation to clients upon request. This service includes the installation and customized configuration of ManageEngine solutions. It enables clients to seamlessly begin work without worrying about the complexities of product installation, deployment, and use. Every client environment is unique and requires additional support beyond basic installation and standard features. With our onboarding support, clients have the option to engage a team of product experts to manage the installation, implementation, customization, and training based on their business needs.

For more information, visit
manageengine.com/onboarding/manageengine-onboardpro-iam-and-siem-professional-service.html.

ManageEngine ADAudit Plus

About ADAudit Plus

ADAudit Plus is a unified auditing solution that provides full visibility into activities across Active Directory (AD), Entra ID, file servers (Windows, NetApp, EMC and more), Windows servers, and workstations—all in just a few clicks. ADAudit Plus helps organizations streamline auditing, demonstrate compliance, and enhance their identity threat detection and response with capabilities like real-time change auditing, user logon tracking, account lockout analysis, privileged user monitoring, file auditing, compliance reporting, attack surface analysis (for AD, Azure, AWS, and GCP), UBA, response automation, and AD backup and recovery.

For more information about ADAudit Plus, visit www.manageengine.com/products/active-directory-audit/.

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