CASE STUDY

Northumbria University monitors network devices and ensures security of confidential data using **EventLog Analyzer**

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Len Holloway,
IT security admin of Northumbria University.

About the Organization

Northumbria University is a reputed educational institution offering more than 500 undergraduate and postgraduate courses in various disciplines. Located in the city of Newcastle in England, the university has two campuses sprawling across the city. Three colleges were integrated to form Newcastle Polytechnic, which was later renamed as Northumbria University and is currently one of the biggest universities in the country with around 31,500 students and 3,500 employees.

Challenges

As a prime research institute, Northumbria University has to provide uninterrupted internet access to all its students and staff. The numerous network devices installed around the campus were proving a challenge to monitor. The IT security department was looking for a solution that could both monitor network activity in real time as well as scrutinize website traffic traversing their network.

Data security was another major concern for the university. Generally, educational institutions are hotspots for hackers because of the amount of personal information on students and staff they store. The university was witnessing numerous attempts to tamper with the files stored in their database containing results of tests and grades. The IT security team in Northumbria University was burdened by the enormous challenge of safeguarding the data stored on these databases.

Solution

After coming across ManageEngine at a trade show, Len Holloway, the IT security admin of Northumbria University, decided to evaluate EventLog Analyzer, ManageEngine's log management solution. "We found EventLog Analyzer easy to install and easier to use. That the product could automatically discover most types of devices in our network simplified our jobs. Before we even realized, it was up and running," Halloway explained after the university decided to purchase the paid version of EventLog Analyzer.

Some of the features that the IT security department of Northumbria University found particularly useful were:

- The ability to create new reports that were mandatory for internal auditing in universities.
- The customizable dashboard where the most relevant reports can be placed for quick access.
- The response action feature which can be used to run configured programs when certain alerts are triggered.

When asked what he thought about EventLog Analyzer's pricing, Halloway revealed how the product saved them from a huge expenditure. He said, "We had formulated our budget with the idea that a separate tool would be needed to monitor our crucial files. But EventLog Analyzer addressed that issue as well. What took us by surprise was its nominal price."

Another important factor that had prompted Northumbria University to get ManageEngine's log management tool was its file integrity monitoring module. EventLog Analyzer keeps files under constant surveillance and generates real-time reports and alerts when the files are subjected to change. EventLog Analyzer was the ideal solution for dealing with the problem of safeguarding sensitive data.

Key features of EventLog Analyzer

EventLog Analyzer offers many beneficial features, including:

✔ A powerful correlation engine that can correlate events from different sources to pinpoint breach attempts, insider attacks, policy violations, and more.

✔ Out-of-the-box compliance reports that help with meeting stringent requirements of regulatory mandates such as HIPAA, PCI DSS, FISMA, the GDPR, and more.

✔ The universal log parsing and indexing mechanism that makes it possible to collect and analyze event logs from any log source, regardless of log format.

✔ The user session monitoring feature that can track the activities of users—including users with special privileges—and provide specialized reports based on that data.

ManageEngine

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