

Swish and Varonis Help a Department of Defense Agency Improve Their Security Posture through Comprehensive Visibility into Enterprise Data Use

Moving towards “Zero Trust” in compliance with government security mandates.

Swish’s client, a U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) agency, is responsible for the planning, design, construction and maintenance of facilities in support of mission-ready combat forces. This includes operation, support and training bases worldwide.

The Challenge

To improve the security of their data from both outsider and insider threats, they undertook a major initiative to implement the principle of least privilege. This effort included the deployment of an automated, continuous monitoring and mitigation system to detect, alert, prevent and remediate threats to ensure protection and compliance with required governance. Of particular concern were two upcoming third-party audits, a Command Cyber Readiness Inspection (CCRI) and a Risk Management Framework (RMF) inspection.

The RMF is a set of criteria that dictate how the U.S. government IT systems must be architected, secured, and monitored. The CCRI focuses on evaluating an organization’s compliance with DoD security orders and directives and assessing network vulnerabilities, physical and traditional security, and user education and awareness.

As these two compliance audits approached, the agency was concerned about previous instances of data spillage and widespread non-essential access privileges across their vast environment.

In preparation, the agency needed reports with actionable remediation recommendations necessary to achieve and maintain compliance. With each recommendation action taken, the agency would move closer to its desired data-centric zero-trust environment and increased confidence in their cybersecurity posture.



“Varonis receives more five star reviews than any other File Analysis or UEBA solution.”



The Solution

Swish helped the agency evaluate their cybersecurity enterprise architecture and make recommendations on how to speed compliance and move closer to a zero-trust environment. Based on the outcome that the agency was looking to achieve, Swish recommended they consider Varonis because of its ability to provide unparalleled insight and control over privileges and access patterns required to truly protect an organization's data. One of the most comprehensive data protection solutions in the industry and a long-time Swish partner, Varonis offered the agency reliability, maturity and a level of security unattainable by other solutions.

The Varonis Platform

Varonis enables the agency to:

- Reduce risk by finding and identifying the agency's most sensitive data, seeing where its overexposed, tracking who can and does access it, and safely locking it down to a least privilege model.
- Demonstrate compliance with built-in reports and a searchable audit trail of data access and authorization process that helps meet requirements for CCRI, RMF, and more.
- Prevent data breaches by detecting and investigating anomalous behavior, privilege escalations, and unauthorized access to core data stores.

Engineering Services

Swish further recommended the use of Varonis and Swish engineering services for architecture, sizing, installation, configuration, integration, training and operations of the Varonis platform in perfect alignment with the agency's data security mission objectives. This consisted of a multi-year success plan that included the software subscription, support, training and a full-time, cleared Swish engineer to operationalize the solution to ensure that the agency realizes the full value of its investment.

Summary

Swish and Varonis worked closely alongside the agency's personnel to fully understand their data security and audit needs and challenges. Based on that knowledge, they were confident that Varonis was the best technology for the job. Adding engineering services ensures the success of the program and establishes a longstanding relationship built on trust and mutual respect with the agency's IT operations and security teams. The agency now has comprehensive visibility into their enterprise data use, assurance that data is only being accessed by authorized users and quick revocation of authorization when warranted.

Swish is a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned and HUBZone certified Small Business provider of technology solutions and engineering services to the U.S. Federal Government with a focus on high-quality outcomes for our clients. Swish's focused practice areas include Cybersecurity, Performance Engineering, IT Modernization and DevSecOps.

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