



ABOUT BRACKNELL FOREST BOROUGH COUNCIL

Bracknell Forest is located in central Berkshire (30 miles from London) with an estimated population of 110,100. The Borough is administered by Bracknell Forest Borough Council whose services are divided into three directorates. The authority currently has 1,523 PCs and 200 laptops supported by 190 servers across the three directorates. The Council has a reputation for innovation and the use of new technology to deliver more efficient and responsive services to its stakeholders.

THE PROBLEM

Bracknell Forest Borough Council originally initiated a security project back in 2003 which stipulated various issues that needed to be covered. This included the requirement to monitor login activity to be able to prove who was logged in, when and where. Additionally with a growth in system administrator activity the need to monitor, filter and report on change of user passwords and permissions across their network was also an important factor.

Case Study

Bracknell Forest Borough Council

LT Auditor+

Subsequently the council also specified the need to run routine security baseline reports to provide a snapshot of key areas for quick assessment – the requirement was to include criteria such as unused, disused or locked user accounts as well as accounts with insecure profiles such as no Password Expiry Interval or without Intruder Lockout specified.

Reporting was required to be on an exception basis so that only relevant and easy to find information was provided, delivered quickly and in plain English. Monitoring and reporting was needed to cover all their Microsoft and Novell network server environments.

Audit requirement

- A clear accountable audit trail of user activity
- CoCo compliance
- Auditing the auditors' use of the software

Functional/Technical requirements

- Initially to be deployed in a Novell environment
- Future proof migration to Windows environment available
- Centralised configuration and reporting

Operational requirements

- Easy deployment and ongoing configuration
- No server downtime or service interruption
- Tamper proof with no disruption to the auditing process

THE SOLUTION

Bracknell's initial investigation confirmed that LT Auditor+ (developed by Blue Lance Inc. in the US and distributed by Altman Technologies in the UK) matched their specification of requirements. An evaluation was undertaken with regular consultation between Bracknell's technical team and Altman Technologies' Technical Services team.

Bracknell needed to address a number of security issues their auditors had identified including intruder detection issues and tracking of security changes. LT Auditor+ was able to meet these requirements using the powerful filtering and exception reporting capabilities available.

At the end of the evaluation Bracknell procured a number of LT Auditor+ server software licences. One of the key issues that helped make LT Auditor+ the chosen solution was the centralised configuration and reporting capability which would aid a speedy deployment and minimise ongoing maintenance and management resource. Another key issue was scalability and ability to migrate to a Windows environment in future.

"Key issues were scalability and ease of deployment and we have been very happy on both counts."

Iain Berry
IT Server Manager
Bracknell Forest Borough Council

THE BENEFITS & RESULTS

Living with LT Auditor+ has been simple and has brought significant benefits to Bracknell Forest Borough Council. The auditor's responsibility for mitigating risk and achieving CoCo compliance in a timely manner has been addressed using LT Auditor+. The IT infrastructure has been able to deliver these services without any overhead on their staff resources or network infrastructure.



COMMENTS

Iain Berry, IT Server Manager at Bracknell Forest Borough Council commented: "LT Auditor+ has enabled us to address key requirements in auditing and security. Key issues were scalability and ease of deployment and we have been very happy on both counts. We have developed a trusting relationship with the Technical Services team at Altman Technologies and our own technical team. They have worked with us as our requirements have changed and helped us manage this effectively."