

Leading global software company

IBM Policy Assessment and Compliance solution helps leading global software company manage risk – and more – for business-critical source code

Overview

The need

Help ensure source code protection for leading global software company.

The solution

IBM® Policy Assessment and Compliance combines powerful content analysis with active file management.

The benefits

- Faster, more efficient implementation
 - Improved source code protection
 - Improved usage policy compliance
 - Cost-effective solution
 - Enabled productive IT management
 - Enabled automatic alerts for improper file usage and automatic file removal.
 - Enhanced directory management and more efficient storage.
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The business need

A leading global infrastructure software company needed to protect the source code for their software products – one of the company's most important assets. Accordingly, the company recently decided to strengthen the protection they provided for this code, not only from external threats, but also from improper use or storage by employees. The company knew that protecting this code would be a significant undertaking. Over 1,000 software developers working with 20 terabytes of storage were involved in software development for the code. Corporate policy required that source code reside only in authorized “build” directories, but there was no enforcement to help ensure compliance with this policy. Developers often forgot to remove their copy of the source code after modifying it and checking it back in. In addition, they sometimes moved the code to other directories while working on it and neglected, afterwards, to delete the code left in those directories.

The evaluation process

Originally, the company thought that they would have to develop tools, internally, to address their needs, even though this would require taking valuable IT resources off other, more productive projects. Then they learned about IBM Policy Assessment and Compliance which automates the discovery, classification, protection and storage of business information. The combination of powerful content analysis with active file management by IBM was just what this large software company needed.



Solution components:

- IBM® Policy Assessment and Compliance.
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The solution

The company and IBM professionals worked closely together on the initiative. In a matter of hours, they had created entity and class definitions that identified the company's source code with virtually no false positives or negatives. The IBM StoredIQ solution extracts entities from the content of files on the file servers and uses them to place each file into one or more classes. These classes are created using IBM's WYSIWYG expression editor – along with re-usable condition sets – to create very rich and sophisticated class definitions. Once files are classified, business policies are used to decide which actions to take on the files. In the case of this customer, file owners are automatically notified if they place a file in an improper location. If the owner does not remove the file in a timely fashion, the IBM action processor will automatically delete it.

The results

The IBM Policy Assessment and Compliance solution was implemented in a matter of a few weeks, and the customer has been pleased that IBM is able to address their need for information risk and storage resource management quickly and effectively. They have been even more pleased to find other uses for the solution. For example, in the process of software development and testing, many files are produced and often left unsecured when no longer needed. IBM Policy Assessment and Compliance automatically removes these files so that storage usage does not get out of hand. The IBM solution also limits non-business files such as MP3 files, which are sometimes stored on business servers. In addition, the company relies on IBM for what they call storage hygiene. IBM Policy Assessment and Compliance creates extensive reports showing what is going on with the files on the various file servers and the users of those files. The customer uses these reports to identify outliers and unusual behavior. For example, if a certain directory in a group has an unusual profile of files, IT professionals can contact the owner to learn why. This helps them know more about user activity so they can adjust the systems for better performance. This procedure also helps identify unauthorized storage uses. In short, IBM has more than delivered on its commitment to contain risk and enhance storage management across the enterprise.

Why IBM?

Software and solutions are helping to build a smarter planet, giving organizations more opportunities to realize their potential and break new ground. To achieve such goals, businesses need solutions that are fueled by expertise, built for today's dynamic environment and designed to deliver tangible business results. IBM Information Lifecycle Governance Solutions can help. The robust ILG portfolio is designed to enable businesses to apply industry leading governance practices to both structured and unstructured content for retention, optimize business processes, maximize IT infrastructure and address complex compliance requirements. The deep ILG capabilities support an information economics agenda – the IBM approach to managing information as a strategic asset through better business alignment and coordination across internal stakeholder groups.

About IBM Information Lifecycle Governance Solutions

IBM's Information Lifecycle Governance (ILG) solutions help organizations improve their information economics by lowering information costs and risks while maximizing data value. IBM is one of the only providers of ILG solutions for Defensible Disposal, including holistically integrated solutions for efficient, rigorous eDiscovery, value-based retention and archiving, and governance and disposal enablement. These solutions are designed to enable legal, IT, records, and business users to reduce legal risk, data management and discovery costs. IBM ILG customers manage enterprise information by its business value; can comply more efficiently with litigation and regulatory duties, and dispose of information that has no value or duty.

For more information

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