Case Study: Hearst

Media Giant Hearst Enhances Security and Operationalizes Access Monitoring in Oracle ERP Cloud with Fastpath Assure®

Situation

Perhaps the most well-known name in the industry, Hearst is a global, media and information services company. With more than 300 businesses across multiple industries—some of which were recently acquired—Hearst's business environment is complex. With size and complexity come risks around security, so it was critical for the company to ensure security was maintained at the highest level. This goal needed to be supported by a reliable and effective technology solution.

Hearst had implemented Oracle ERP Cloud and brought in Application Security Audit Manager Ivan Ng to assess security controls to ensure they met the company's requirements. "You're taking risks by not having the proper security controls in place from the outset and being forced to clean it up down the road can also be costly," said Ivan.

Solution

Ivan and his team selected Fastpath Assure, a comprehensive, interactive tool that enables organizations to identify security conflicts within their ERP application, better understand their overall security, and provide the necessary documentation to both internal and external audit teams. Assure also eliminates manual processes, increases accuracy, and ultimately saves time.

Fastpath works with nearly every ERP application on the market today, which was just one of the reasons for choosing it. Not all of Hearst's companies use Oracle for their ERP, so the solution needed to be flexible.

In addition, Ivan's team found that Fastpath was rich in functionality they required, easy to set up and use, and had the ability to perform access monitoring, which was important with all the applications and platforms in use at Hearst. "It is very apparent that the application was written by auditors for auditors," said Ivan.

Analysis in Brief

Company Profile
Hearst is a global, media and information services company with interests in hundreds of businesses, from newspapers and cable TV networks to financial services and digital services companies.

Business Situation
Oracle ERP Cloud had been implemented, and the company needed a tool to help maintain high security standards moving forward with the new ERP.

Solution
Hearst selected Fastpath Assure for SoD reporting and security tools with direct integration to Oracle ERP Cloud.

Fastpath Tools
- Fastpath Assure
- Segregation of Duties

Benefits
- Rapid ROI: Cleaner, faster audits
- Ease of use: 100% user adoption
- Peace of mind: Tight, consistent security controls

Solution (continued)

With Fastpath in place, the company launched an automated mass review of 4,000 user role assignments. With that step completed, the team set about refining user roles. Ivan recommends using custom roles, to get exactly what your organization needs and reduce the risk of SoD or other issues that can occur with roles that come out of the box with most ERP packages.

Results

The organization has been thrilled with Fastpath—supported by 100% user adoption across multiple business units in a very short period. It has also helped on the finance operational side with designing and redesigning their roles, enabling quick analyses to ensure they are being designed properly.

Most importantly, Fastpath passed the internal audit test with flying colors. Audits are much faster and cleaner. "I gave them access to the reports they needed, which helped them get their testing done much more efficiently compared to the past," continued Ivan. "So, this was one area where there was big ROI right off the bat."

With roles cleaned up and an SoD structure in place, future reviews—slated for every 6 months—will get incrementally faster and easier. "It boils down to how easy Fastpath is to use and that it actually keeps what should be a simple process simple," said Ivan. "It has been refreshing to see what the right technology can do."

Watch the On-Demand Webinar: Lessons Learned in Overcoming Challenges in Oracle ERP Cloud Security Design and Monitoring

Click HERE to watch this on-demand session with Ivan Ng, Application Security Audit Manager for Finance Operations from Hearst to discover security challenges and how to correct them using Oracle Cloud and Fastpath Assure.

About Hearst

Hearst is a leading global, diversified media, information and services company with more than 360 businesses. Its major interests include ownership in cable television networks such as A&E, HISTORY, Lifetime and ESPN; global financial services leader Fitch Group; Hearst Health, a group of medical information and services businesses; transportation assets including CAMP Systems International, a major provider of software-as-a-service solutions for managing maintenance of jets and helicopters; 33 television stations; newspapers such as the Houston Chronicle, San Francisco Chronicle and Times Union (Albany, New York); more than 300 magazines around the world; and investments in emerging digital entertainment companies such as Complex Networks.

About Fastpath

Fastpath Solutions is recognized as a leader in security, audit and compliance specializing in access certification and segregation of duties, reviews, and monitoring. Designed by auditors for auditors, our solutions enable continuous controls monitoring, helping companies meet regulatory requirements without dramatically changing their business processes. With our solutions, customers can automate their IT and financial controls while simultaneously improving their security and lowering their costs.

Contact us to learn more about our solutions or to request a customized product demonstration.