

Fund Implements Information Barriers To Comply With Regulations

Summary

Organization

A hedge fund that invests and finances commercial and residential assets

Industry:

Financial Services

Use Case

Meet Risk & Compliance Needs

Customer Environment

On-Premises Windows File Servers

Business Problem

Segregating access controls between teams to protect business sensitive data, comply with regulations.

Results

Analyzed over 6 million files and found that 0.05% of those documents were high risk. Remediated security issues in these documents.

The Business Problem

This hedge fund is a leading diversified capital manager focused on driving income for its stockbrokers through judicious investments and continuous management of its portfolio spanning assets greater than \$130B. Their **small but robust information security team of three** needed to maintain **segregation of access controls between various teams in the organization to protect business sensitive data**. Their target environment is **on-premises Windows file servers** that store 6TB of organizational information.

While the firm had **been using rules-based approaches** to drive content segregation between teams, the knowledge that this approach was not comprehensive caused the security team to spend significant time and effort providing manual overviews and monitoring. Additionally, they **used folder-level permissions as a proxy** to provide access. Since files and sub-folders can easily be moved to other folders with different permissions, this method **left business critical data at risk, leading to audit & compliance loopholes**. The CTO sought an efficient solution to **maintain information barriers** and ease **compliance with regulations** such as Financial Industrial Regulatory Authority (**FINRA**).

Choosing Concentric

Concentric's Semantic Intelligence technology **understands the context behind the documents**. The CTO found this approach very innovative and promising since it overcame the challenges and limitations the security team currently faced with centralized rule-based based approach.

How It Works

Concentric Semantic intelligence technology **groups documents into thematic clusters by deep learning the meaning** behind the documents. Leverage thematic understanding to auto-classify documents without relying on end users. Concentric **surfaces High-Risk documents** by dynamically understanding content sensitivity and appropriate classification, entitlement, sharing properties etc. This **data risk is remediated** and the data protected by changing sharing permissions either through native capability or through integration with third party tools.

Implementation and Results

Concentric was set up in the organization **within a day**. It scanned **6 million files**, housed in on-premises Windows servers and applied its deep learning technology to understand the import of the content of these documents. The files which were **thematically similar in content** were grouped in 200 clusters – e.g. Financial (Trading docs), Partner, finance and legal documents and Product (Source Code). The metadata for these documents including entitlements and sharing was also assessed and those documents that had **incorrect entitlements** within each cluster, **were flagged for review**.

The Concentric solution found that ~100 business sensitive files had incorrect group permissions set and additional 200 files with wrong permissions set at the user level. For

example, Concentric found a trading report that had been shared with an internal user who should not have had access to the file. In all, the solution found about **0.05% of the business sensitive documents were at high risk** from inappropriate entitlements, classification and sharing permissions. This enabled the security team to **efficiently correct these issues** for each document. Throughout this process, **the security team did not have to define any rules or folder-level permissions or do any upfront configuration**.

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"Your product is critical for our continuous access reviews and is vital to helping meet my data risk and compliance needs."

CTO
Hedge Fund Company

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Without the benefit of the Concentric solution, the security team would have had to inspect all the organization's documents through regex pattern matching or manual approaches, which would have been a very time-consuming and error-prone task. Concentric's patent-pending technology has **significantly eased compliance and audit requirements**, enabling this financial firm to maintain information barriers to protect business critical data.

Implementing Concentric had **led to significant improvements in their compliance within a week** and they wanted to investigate other ways they could use the solution to improve their security.



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Next Steps

The organization has been interested in **categorizing and classifying all their data** for a long time. Prior IT-led and user-driven efforts had proven both onerous and error-prone.

The security team saw that Concentric's semantic approach to assessing data and categorizing it into the appropriate cluster, could significantly ease classification. This would **allow them to identify & correct misclassified data while also correcting access permissions.**

Benefits and Results

- Enforce information walls to comply with financial regulations such as FINRA
- Comprehensively classify all data significantly increasing data security



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