How Element Solutions Automated and Streamlined its Access Review Process

Overview
Element Solutions Inc is a leading specialty chemicals company whose businesses supply a broad range of solutions that enhance the performance of products people use every day. Developed in multi-step technological processes, these innovative solutions enable customers’ manufacturing processes in several key industries, including consumer electronics, power electronics, semiconductor fabrication, communications and data storage infrastructure, automotive systems, industrial surface finishing, consumer packaging and offshore energy.
The Challenge

Wally Agostini, SAP Security and Compliance Manager, oversees Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) compliance as well as Segregation of Duties (SoD) and access control for Element Solutions. In addition to Wally, two other employees make up the team responsible for administering and completing access reviews across the company in order to meet the audit requirements for SOX compliance. The three employees are in charge of ongoing monitoring and managing SoD and access risks. Previously, the entire process was done manually with three production SAP instances in scope for a bi-annual access review. This meant generating reports on users and access privileges with spreadsheets and macros, routing reports to managers for manual review and return, and compiling a final audit-ready report. “It was a manual process and obviously very time-consuming and labor-intensive to manage,” said Wally. Creating the spreadsheets for review took approximately eight hours per system, with an additional 16 to 24 hours per system for collating responses from managers. On completion of all the work, the entire manual process per system could take anywhere from 24 to 32 hours or three to four full working days, respectively.

The Solution

To alleviate the amount of manual work Wally and his team were doing, they chose to partner with SailPoint, to help. SailPoint’s Identity Platform automates the review process from end to end, accelerating the time it takes to manage, track and close reviews. When implementing, Wally remarked how it was a streamlined and straightforward process and that Support had been quick and responsive to him.

The Results

One of the biggest benefits for Wally and his team was the time savings. Setting up the reviews now takes only one hour and responses to reviews are automated within the solution. The team no longer had to spend hours sifting through emails to complete the review process. Tasks that once took up to a few days time now are completed in just a few hours or less, including delegating reviews when a manager is out of office or incorrectly assigned. “It just speeds up the whole process and frees me up to do other things,” said Wally. In using SailPoint features, including the Admin Dashboard and automated emails, Wally acknowledges that the built-in workflow and having everything in one place is ideal. He noted, “Overall the solution is very straightforward, very simple. It’s exactly what we need.”
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