

Case Study: David Nieper Ltd, UK

Assure Monitoring and Reporting makes PCI-DSS compliance easy for David Nieper Ltd

David Nieper's reputation is based on its high quality designs and an exceptional level of customer service, provided to each and every customer. Customer relationships are at the heart of the business and central to the entire operation. The company takes pride in their customer's exceptional brand loyalty and welcomes many back season after season to buy from the latest collections.

Trust is an essential part of this relationship. Trust that when a customer places an order their expectations are met and exceeded, both in the purchase they are making and with the purchasing process itself. David Nieper offers customers complete peace of mind that their personal and financial data will be treated with the utmost care and respect, and safeguarded with the highest level of security.

One of the secrets of David Nieper's success is their extensive investment in custom written and bespoke applications which are designed to meet their specific needs for forecasting, manufacturing, sales, purchasing, accounting and payroll, all running on an IBM POWER 814 with multiple LPARS.

Their IT Team needed to find a solution that efficiently and cost-effectively was able to report on the audit data contained in the IBM i journals on all of their LPARS.

Business Challenge

David Nieper is a multinational company, with offices in the UK, France, Germany and Holland. The IT team needed a solution to meet the highest standards of PCI-DSS compliance, both to adhere to strict regulations and give complete confidence to senior management and customers, guaranteeing high performance security systems.

Their key requirements include:

- Real time email reporting for exceptions
- Able to be implemented on all LPARS with central management
- Daily email reports summarising hundreds of thousands of journal entries that are simple to understand and quick to comprehend
- Capable of producing ad hoc reports as required, potentially using audit data captured up to a year ago
- A subset of the data to be sent to a Splunk platform
- All reports to be available for at least a year
- Access to the captured information must be quick, easy and flexible
- The ability to provide automated reporting
- Implementation must be straight forward and have no impact on the performance of the underlying applications.

Client profile

David Nieper Ltd, UK

David Nieper is designer and manufacturer of luxurious women's fashion. A family run business, it was established in 1961 in Alfreton, Derbyshire - the heartland of Britain's traditional textile industry.

Today, the company sells to discerning customers throughout the UK, Europe and beyond and has become renowned for incomparable quality, comfort and style. Each garment is made from the finest fabrics, by a team of skilled seamstresses, using tailoring techniques mastered over decades to create classic, timeless designs.

With a total commitment to UK manufacturing, all sales are direct to the customer via mail order and the Internet with one third of customers based overseas.

David Nieper employs over 230 highly skilled staff, including designers, garment cutters, dressmakers and seamstresses. From the first sketches to the final stitch, each piece is lovingly created in England.

Solution

After researching the audit solutions available, David Nieper chose Assure Monitoring and Reporting. Not only did it meet their needs as detailed below, but Precisely was able to provide an initial demonstration that was based on genuine production data.

David Napier's needs included:

- Easy to install and set up
- Can be customised without bespoke mods to work with in house systems
- All types of journal entries are accepted
- Flexible reporting engine allowing precise condition definitions
- Multiple report output types including Db2 file, PDF, XLS, and CSV
- Event notification via e-mail, popup or syslog
- Report distribution via Spool, SMTP, IFS based PDF
- Scheduled and ad hoc reports
- Real-time alerts
- Extraction and reporting can be independent steps from each other, allowing for retention of extracted data for future reporting
- Can be used on-demand during investigations

Using the IBM i journaling functionality to record database changes, Assure Monitoring and Reporting allows companies to meet regulatory compliance by detecting fraudulent activity through the easy generation of accurate, relevant, and readable reports on database and system activity.

IBM i journals are the only accepted audit source for the majority of regulatory standards. Easily scalable and with minimum impact on system performance, Assure Monitoring and Reporting can be used by companies of all sizes and is fully compatible with all the most commonly used ERP systems on the IBM i.

The Results

With the help of Precisely's UK partner, Rowton IT Solutions Ltd, Assure Monitoring and Reporting's database auditing was fully implemented in a matter of days on multiple LPARs, reusing the logic and rules from the first on the others. It was simple to install using both local and international support.

The solution has also proven to be a cost-effective and reliable solution for David Nieper's entire IBM i environment. Its easy integration with Splunk, which allows for consolidated reporting from other IT infrastructure, was the icing on the cake.

After 6 months use of Assure Monitoring and Reporting we can confirm that it has had no noticeable impact on the performance of their applications.

“Having performed an analysis of the audit reporting requirements for PCI-DSS compliance, I realised it would take several weeks to create and implement a bespoke solution, but using Assure Monitoring and Reporting we were able to achieve this in just a few days.”

- Annette Templeman
IT Manager, David Nieper