

SAMANCOR CHROME IMPROVES SAP ACCESS RISK MANAGEMENT WITH SOTERION FOR SAP

About the Company

Samancor Chrome is one of the largest integrated ferrochrome producers in the world and its core business is the mining and smelting of chrome ore. Three grades of ferrochrome are produced: charge chrome, intermediate carbon ferrochrome and low carbon ferrochrome, each used in different areas of the stainless steel smelting process.

Samancor Chrome is a private company and since November 2009, International Mineral Resources (IMR) is the majority shareholder with a 70% direct shareholding in the holding company, Samancor Chrome Holdings (Pty) Limited.

The company's corporate office is based in Sandton, Johannesburg. Three ferrochrome plants and two chrome ore mining complexes operate as separate business units in different locations in South Africa:

- Western Chrome Mines in the North West Province and Eastern Chrome Mines in the Limpopo Province
- Ferrometals and Middelburg Ferrochrome and Technochrome in the Mpumalanga Province and Tubatse Ferrochrome in the Limpopo Province

The potential of the company's mineral resources, its dynamic new leadership, and the technological innovation, infrastructure and knowledge capital has developed over the years, combined to depict a very positive future for Samancor Chrome and the company continues to develop and implement best practices in all areas of operation.

Setting the strategy

Samancor Chrome experienced certain business challenges. "We did not have access to a relevant Segregation of Duty rule set and our current tool was unable to simulate user access risks off line," says Cuan Kloppers, CIO of Samancor Chrome.

"Our original system's Segregation of Duty (SOD) rule set was not comprehensive enough, not relevant to our business and did not have the functionality to track user's transaction usage and frequency," says Kloppers. "There was also no functionality to simulate SOD with new user creation and change authorisation, furthermore we could not link mitigation controls to SOD risks." Challenges were also experienced with data synchronisation from SAP. "This was an extremely time consuming and technical process." environment.

"Soterion's unique functionality of Dynamic Authorization Management provides a new level of visibility into our SAP Authorization solution. In addition, the simplicity and practicality of the software has allowed for a rapid reduction in segregation of duty risks with minimal business interruption."

Cuan Kloppers
CIO of Samancor Chrome



Facts at a glance

Company:	Samancor Chrome
Solution:	Soterion for SAP
Industry:	Mining
Number of SAP users:	7500



Getting Business Specific

“Our business required an affordable solution that could provide quick and easy synchronisation with SAP information, cater for off line user access simulation and approvals workflow and we needed a solution that included an applicable SOD rule set, that was able to link to mitigation controls.”

Cuan Kloppers
CIO of Samancor Chrome

In response to their business challenges and the fact that the current tool's annual renewal and licensing fees were getting extremely costly, Samancor Chrome took the decision to implement Soterion for SAP.

Johan van Noordwyk, director at Soterion Technologies says, “Soterion for SAP assists companies to achieve SAP Authorization compliance in a cost-effective and systematic manner through Dynamic Authorization Management. This is the on-going monitoring and adjusting of user access to ensure the SAP Authorization solution is well aligned to what the users are actually doing in SAP. It allows our clients to differentiate between real SAP access risk and potential access risk, it empowers businesses to make more informed decisions relating to SAP access risk, and enhances business ownership of SAP access risk through business-friendly reporting.”

Samancor Chrome was impressed with the Soterion solution. “It is affordable, user friendly and the software gets continually upgraded to comply with the customers' requirements.”

Seeing results

The technical set-up of the solution only took a few hours with the help of Soterion's implementation and maintenance teams. “The team delivered excellent service and administrator training, which usually takes three days. This was completed in a day because the system is so user friendly,” says Kloppers.

Business Benefits

Soterion for SAP assisted in providing Samancor Chrome with Full System reliance from their external auditors. “We have achieved this for the first time in three years with the help of Soterion's SOD risk rule set,” says Kloppers.

Further to this Samancor Chrome's SAP GRC (Governance Risk and Compliance) team is now able to simulate SOD risks of new users and change authorisation access. Mitigation control implementation and approval can be obtained before actual changes are done in the production environment.

Soterion for SAP now forms an integral part of Samancor Chrome's business processes with very specific advantages to the various departments within the company. The solution minimises fraud risks to the company by its pro-active and quick identification of SOD risks and the implementation of mitigation controls. All user transaction frequencies are also now available to management.

Doing Business Better

According to Kloppers, the implementation of Soterion for SAP will definitely set the pace for future technology investment. “We are looking forward to the future implementation of user access workflow for all SAP Authorization Managers and the implementation of the functionality for Internal Audit checks and Firefighter,” concludes Kloppers.