

SOTERION FOR SAP IMPROVES ACCESS RISK MANAGEMENT AT AUSTRALIAN ENERGY COMPANIES

About the Companies

United Energy (UE) and Multinet Gas (MG) provide a safe and reliable energy supply to people across east and southeast Melbourne and the Mornington Peninsula in Australia. UE and MG are separate businesses with different boards of directors and ownership structures, however the companies are managed by the same head office.

UE distributes electricity to more than 650,000 customers, managing a network of 215,000 poles and approximately 13,000 km of wires. MG distributes natural gas to 660,000 customers. Its network of 164 km of transmission pressure pipelines and 9,866 km of distribution mains transports gas from the high-pressure transmission network operated by APA GasNet to residential, commercial and industrial customers.

Setting the strategy

UE and MG run SAP enterprise software. The companies had no SAP access risk tool in place, which meant they relied on the SAP audit reports to highlight risks within their systems. The reports indicated that IT support users had wide access to the SAP system, which created a threat to the integrity of the system.

“There was a need for an SAP authorisation tool to provide better visibility of the SAP system on a continuous basis. This solution also needed to be able to limit the access of unauthorised users to certain SAP functionality, and be a good fit for the UE and MG businesses in terms of cost effectiveness and complexity.”

Basile Sepsakos
United Energy

Getting Business Specific

Soterion for SAP was chosen as the best fit and most user friendly solution for the UE and MG application. The installation and training took place over three days. Historical user – transaction data was imported into Soterion and the solution reported on the access risk the users had in relation to what functionality (transaction codes) they were using.



Facts at a glance

Company:	United Energy / Multinet Gas
Solution:	Soterion for SAP
Industry:	Energy
Number of SAP users:	750



Seeing results

"The results derived from the Soterion solution allowed our SAP security team to easily identify the roles and transactions contributing to the access risk in our system. These were then removed," says Mr Sepsakos. "Next, we went on to identify the transaction codes in roles that users were not using. These transaction codes were removed from the roles. Finally, some of the support roles were so wide we could not clean the up very easily. We used Soterion's Wizard functionality to build new roles for a group of users based on actual usage. This allowed us to create more specific support roles for the support users. The clean-up exercise allowed us to reduce our segregation of duties count by 98% without any impact on business," said Mr Sepsakos.

PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC) provided UE and MG with a customised rule set – this was imported into Soterion and allows the company to monitor access risks that are relevant and critical to their business.

Business Benefits

Soterion's SAP authorisation solution prevents unauthorised users from having unnecessarily wide access in SAP. The tool is user friendly and has excellent business reporting functionality. Soterion for SAP also provides the risk visibility needed to make informed decisions, shifting responsibility for the SAP system's authorisation security from the IT support team to the company's business leaders.

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."

Doing Business Better

"We initially started by renting the tool to allow us to evaluate it. After six months we quickly saw the immense value Soterion brought to our business and decided to purchase it outright," says Mr Sepsakos.

"We appreciate that managing SAP access risk will always take effort. The access risk rule set should be updated on a continuous basis to cater for new functionality and there is a constant search for better and easier mitigating control reports. However, Soterion for SAP has allowed us to get to this point with minimal effort and at a far reduced cost than initially expected."

*Basile Sepsakos
United Energy*

