

Minimizing the Cost and Complexity of Sarbanes-Oxley Compliance



*How a Superior
Function-Based Program Design
Substantially Reduces
SOX Processing Time*



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Situation Analysis: The Sarbanes-Oxley Act Increases the Pressure to Perform.

Corporate executives are under increasing pressure to ensure stockholders, auditors, and federal regulators that employees working with financial information do not have real or potential financial conflicts. This is a critical element of compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (SOX), and is known as avoiding *Segregation of Duties conflicts* (“SOD conflicts”). An enterprise that allows SOD conflicts to remain undetected within their enterprise information systems increases their risk and the potential for severe financial penalties.

But for many companies — even those with automated solutions in place — the process of identifying conflicts and reviewing systems access can be a daunting task. In large enterprises, where hundreds of individuals are managing literally tens of thousands of financial functions, the potential for conflicts can be significant, and the way that many SOD solutions uncover them varies significantly from different applications. This results in higher costs and the potential for compliance errors.

The Issue: First Generation SOD solutions consume vast resources that take too much time.

First generation SOD approaches perform conflict analysis using either extensive manual discovery methods or complex solution designs that over-complicate the analysis process. Manual methods involve multiple levels of human intervention that increase the risk of error, while most software solutions attempt to check every employee against every possible combination of financial functions. Because of the amount, complexity and redundancy of the (largely irrelevant and unnecessary) indexed information generated by these software solutions, they require significant computing resources and substantial amounts of time – often taking several days to complete the required SOX compliance analysis and reports.

The Solution: The Security Weaver compliance solution for SAP enterprise software saves both time and resources.

Security Weaver’s “Function-Based” approach was designed from years of experience working with the financial issues of numerous Fortune 1000 enterprises. By leveraging this experience, Security Weaver focuses exclusively on financial employee roles, positions and transactions that are directly related to “function-based” potential SOD conflicts on a real-time basis. This function-based design generates significantly smaller comparison tables which require less extensive system resources, and considerably shortens the time necessary to complete the SOD compliance and reporting process. In fact, *enterprises that use Security Weaver have been able to reduce their SAP compliance review process from several days to a matter of minutes*. This translates into significant resource and cost savings for organizations that use SAP enterprise software.

Summary: A Functions Based Approach = Faster Compliance at a Lower Cost
The Security Weaver compliance solution for SAP enterprise software employs a highly efficient and integrated design that provides significant benefits for meeting SOD compliance requirements:

- ***Faster Compliance Verification*** – Security Weaver identifies potential functional conflicts faster, allowing enterprises to meet their SOX compliance verification requirements quickly.
- ***Lower Cost & Real-time Analysis and Reporting*** – Security Weaver’s efficient “function-based” design reduces from days to minutes the time required for performing role analysis and reporting processes, thereby using fewer server resources and less manpower, and saving significant operating costs.
- ***Simple and Powerful Design*** – Security Weaver is a comprehensive, efficient and sophisticated next generation solution that is easy to implement and maintain, enabling any member of an organization to use it without requiring expensive training, consulting, or additional support.
- ***Integrated Approach*** – All essential components necessary for SOX compliance are integrated into a single solution without the need to purchase additional, expensive add-ons. Security Weaver also offers consulting and free installation and trial of the software.

For more information about Security Weaver compliance solutions for SAP Enterprise Software, please visit our corporate website at www.securityweaver.com



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