

CONTENTS

Overview1

Traditional/Manual Approaches1

Who owns this data?1

How can I help data owners make effective data protection and management decisions?.....2

Varonis Approaches2

Varonis Helps Identify Where Owners Are Needed.....2

Varonis DatAdvantage Shows Who is Using a Folder3

Varonis DatAdvantage helps data owners make effective data protection and management decisions.....4

ABOUT THE VARONIS METADATA FRAMEWORK.....6

Varonis Data Governance Suite7

Varonis DatAdvantage for Windows
Varonis DatAdvantage for UNIX/Linux
Varonis DatAdvantage for SharePoint.....7

Varonis DataPrivilege8

Varonis Data Classification Framework.....9

Learn More9

Data Ownership

OVERVIEW

Varonis DatAdvantage allows organizations to quickly identify the business owners of data so they can be directly involved in the process of data governance. Varonis can help IT administrators answer questions about unstructured data such as:

- Who owns this data?
- How can I help them make effective data protection and management decisions?

Traditionally, these questions have been difficult to answer.

TRADITIONAL/MANUAL APPROACHES

Who owns this data?

The first step to identify data owners is usually to look at the access control list of a file or folder. If directory groups are associated with roles or business areas, the ACL may indicate which business groups or roles have access, and thus which business users are possible data owners

The problem with this approach is that access control lists are often outdated, inaccurate or contain global groups. Directory groups themselves may be outdated and contain users who are no longer in the appropriate role or business group. As organizations collaborate more and more, cross-functional teams may contain users from a variety of business units, complicating the matter.

As new folders or SharePoint sites are created, they often inherit the inaccurate ACLs of their parent folders, meaning that the problems multiply over time.

Using the ACL as a starting point means that IT still has to spend a significant amount of time contacting business staff to track down the actual business owner of data. With inaccurate ACLs or folders open to global access, this task becomes even more difficult.

IT may start by looking at the content of files within a folder to try and determine a data owner, but this often only begins the search, it does not present IT with the proper business owner.

How can I help data owners make effective data protection and management decisions?

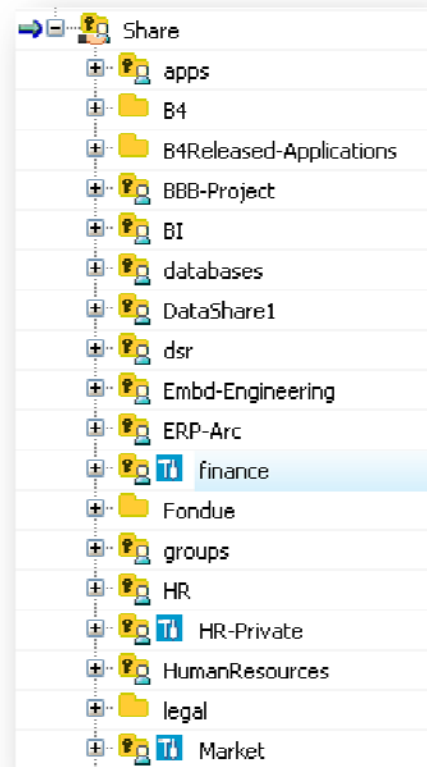
Assuming a data owner is identified, IT still has to find ways to involve them in decision-making processes to protect and manage their data. Traditionally, IT has provided business owners with long lists of groups and users who have access to data—data that may not even belong to them. Lacking any other intelligence, a data owner will either have to spend a great deal of time scrutinizing long user lists, or eventually give up and give it a “rubber stamp”. When it comes to involving data owners in access decisions on a regular basis, the lack of automation limits how often interactions can take place, how much information can be provided, and how quickly and effectively IT can execute business decisions.

VARONIS APPROACHES

Varonis Helps Identify Where Owners Are Needed

It stands to reason that wherever the organization has permissions to write or read data, a data owner should be designated to make decisions about who gets access, acceptable use, etc. Otherwise, decisions about that data are left up to members of IT, who have little organizational context about the data they are trying to manage and protect.

Because Varonis collects and analyzes permissions and directory services, Varonis identifies the folders closest to the top of the hierarchy where permissions for business users have been explicitly applied—these folders should have assigned data owners.



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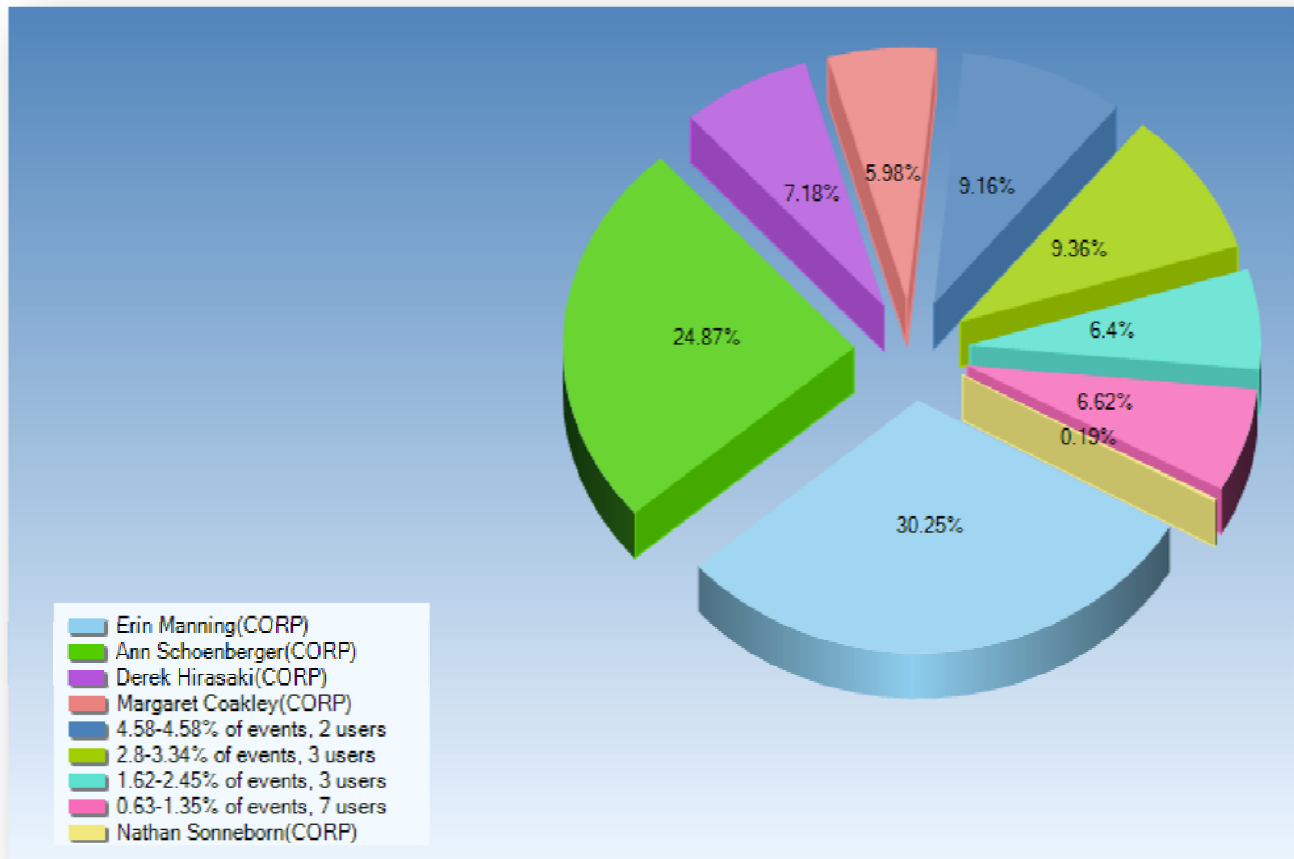
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Varonis DatAdvantage Shows Who is Using a Folder

Varonis DatAdvantage keeps an audit trail of every open, create, move, modify and delete on the file system. By analyzing this data over time, Varonis can provide actionable business intelligence on the probable data owner of any folder. In the Statistics pane of DatAdvantage, administrators can quickly see the most active users of a data container. Often, one of the active users is the data owner. If none of the active users is the business owner, he or she will likely work for the data owner, or at least know who the data owner is likely to be.



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Varonis DatAdvantage helps data owners make effective data protection and management decisions

With Varonis DatAdvantage, data owners can be provided actionable intelligence about their data. Once a data owner is identified, that owner can be assigned to a folder from within the DatAdvantage user interface. Assigning a data owner in this method accomplishes two important things: the first is that data owners will automatically receive regular, data-driven reports about their data that you have decided are important; the second is with DataPrivilege, where entitlement reviews and authorization workflows can be fully automated—DataPrivilege will execute the instructions of the data owner.

Data owners can receive regular reports on who can access their data, who is using their data, stale folders, and who has been accessing sensitive content within a data owner's directories:

User or Group Permissions for Directory
Report generated on 11/02/2009 12:03:21 PM

Access Path	File Server	User/Group	SAM Account Name	Current Permissions	Recommended Permissions
C:\Share\finance					
	corpfs02	CORP\Domain Admins	Domain Admins	FMRLXW	FMRLXW
	corpfs02	CORP\sec_IT-System	sec_IT-System	MRLXW	MRLXW
	corpfs02	CORP\Group_Finance	Group_Finance	RLXW	RLXW
C:\Share\finance\Controllers					
	corpfs02	CORP\sec_IT-System	sec_IT-System	RLX	RLX
	corpfs02	CORP\NTFS-Controllers	NTFS-Controllers	RLXW	RLXW
	corpfs02	CORP\Domain Admins	Domain Admins	FMRLXW	FMRLXW

Access Statistics
Report generated on 4/9/2009 9:09:17 AM

Access Path	User Name	Date	SAM Account Name	File Server	Event Count	Event Count on Subdirs
c:\HR					8	010
	Root-Domain\Ann Perrino				0	41
	Root-Domain\Don Perisson				8	721
	Root-Domain\Erica Caffrey				0	48
c:\HR-Private					0	174
	Root-Domain\Alex Weinger				0	156
	Root-Domain\Frances Weidenfeller				0	4
	Root-Domain\Melissa Cooley				0	14
c:\HumanResources					0	185
	Root-Domain\Alex Weinger				0	59
	Root-Domain\Denise Walters				0	6
	Root-Domain\Frances Weidenfeller				0	120

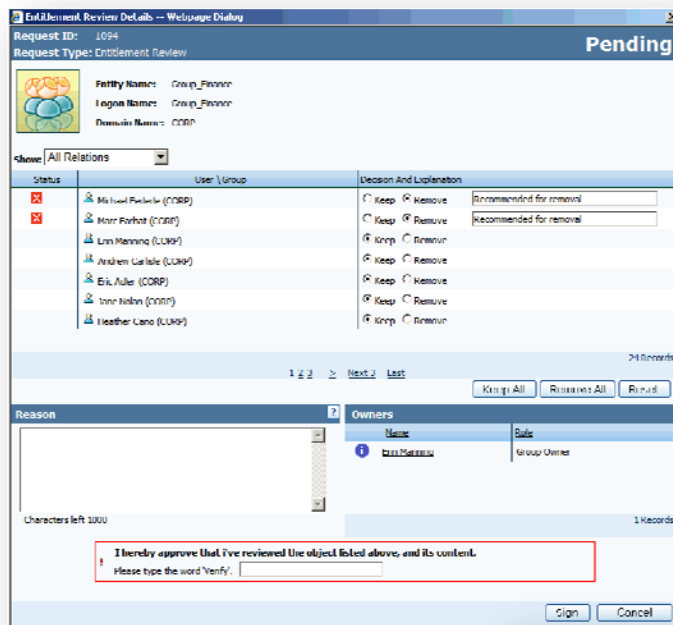
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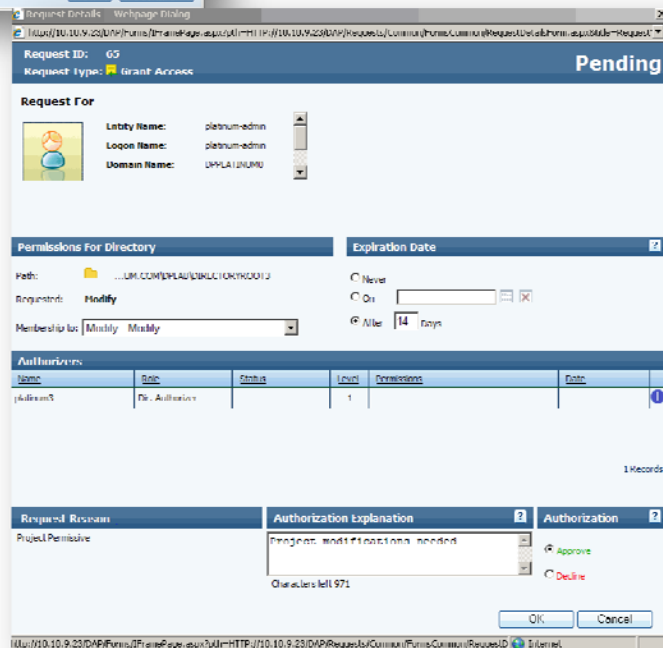
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With Data Privilege, Data Owners can review changes to their permissions and DatAdvantage recommendations, make decisions about them, and digitally sign the entitlement review form. DataPrivilege will then execute changes on behalf of the data owners.



Data Owners can also be automatically involved in the authorization workflows for their data. Users can request access to their data via DataPrivilege (or have the help desk do it for them), and then the request will be automatically routed to the data owner and other appropriate parties. If all approvals are met, appropriate access will be automatically provisioned, revoked on the expiration date, and all authorization activities are tracked for easy reporting.



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ABOUT THE VARONIS METADATA FRAMEWORK

Ongoing, scalable data protection and management require technology designed to handle an ever-increasing volume and complexity—a metadata framework.

Four types of metadata are critical for data governance:

- User and Group Information – from Active Directory, LDAP, NIS, SharePoint, etc.
- Permissions information – knowing who can access what data in which containers
- Access Activity – knowing which users *do* access what data, when and what they've done
- Sensitive Content Indicators – knowing which files contain items of sensitivity and importance, and where they reside

The Varonis metadata framework non-intrusively collects this critical metadata, generates metadata where existing metadata is lacking (e.g. its file system filters and content inspection technologies), pre-processes it, normalizes it, analyzes it, stores it, and presents it to IT administrators in an interactive, dynamic interface. Once data owners are identified, they are empowered to make informed authorization and permissions maintenance decisions through a web-based interface—that are then executed—with no IT overhead or manual backend processes.

The Varonis Data Governance Suite will scale to present and future requirements using standard computing infrastructure, even as the number of functional relationships between metadata entities grows exponentially. As new platforms and metadata streams emerge, they will be seamlessly assimilated into the Varonis framework, and the productive methodologies it enables for data management and protection.

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VARONIS DATA GOVERNANCE SUITE

Varonis provides a complete metadata framework and integrated product suite for governing unstructured data on file servers, NAS devices and (semi-structured) SharePoint servers. Varonis DatAdvantage, DataPrivilege, and the Data Classification Framework provide organizations the ability to effectively manage business data through actionable intelligence, automation of complex IT tasks, and sophisticated workflow management.

Varonis DatAdvantage for Windows

Varonis DatAdvantage for UNIX/Linux

Varonis DatAdvantage for SharePoint

DatAdvantage provides a single interface through which administrators can perform data governance activities.

- Visibility
 - Complete, bi-directional view into the permissions structure of unstructured and semi-structured file systems:
 - Displays data accessible to any user or group, and
 - Users and groups with permissions to any folder or SharePoint site
 - User and group information from directory services is linked directly with file and folder access control data
- Complete Audit Trail
 - Usable audit trail of every file touch on monitored servers
 - Detailed information on every file event in a normalized database that is searchable and sortable
 - Data collection performed with minimal impact to the file server and without requiring native Windows or Unix auditing
- Recommendations and Modeling
 - Actionable intelligence on where excess file permissions and group memberships can be safely removed without affecting business process
 - Model permissions changes without affecting production environments
- Data Ownership Identification
 - Statistical analysis of user activity effectively identifies business owners of data
 - Automated reports involve data owners in data governance processes
 - Facilitates round-trip data owner involvement via DataPrivilege

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Varonis DataPrivilege

DataPrivilege automates data governance by providing a framework for users and data owners to be directly involved in the access review and authorization workflows. A web interface for data owners, business users, and IT administrators automates data access requests, owner and IT authorization of changes, automated entitlement reviews, and business data policy automation (e.g. ethical walls). A complete audit trail ensures that data governance policies are in place and being adhered to.

- Automated Entitlement Reviews
 - Data owners are provided scheduled entitlement reviews with recommendations for access removal (generated by DatAdvantage)
 - Reviews can be scheduled based on business policy
- Access Control Workflow
 - Users can request access to data and group resources directly, providing explanation and duration
 - Data owners and other stakeholders are automatically involved in authorization process
 - Permissions changes are carried out automatically once approval requirements are met
 - Permissions revocations are carried out automatically on their assigned expiration
- Business Policy Implementation
 - Multiple levels of authorization provide automated implementation of business and IT data governance policy
 - Ethical wall functionality enforces data access policies
- Complete Self-Service Portal
 - Data Owners can view and manage permissions on their data and groups without requiring elevated access privileges, if desired
 - Data Owners can view access activity and statistics about their data, if desired
- Complete Audit Trail and Reporting
 - All workflow events are recorded for audit and reporting which can prove the enforcement of governance practices
 - Authorizations, Entitlement reviews, and other management reports provide evidence of process adherence

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Varonis Data Classification Framework

The Varonis Data Classification Framework gives organizations visibility into the content of data, providing intelligence on where sensitive data resides across its file systems. By integrating file classification information—from either the included classification engine or from a third-party classification product—alongside the rest of the Varonis metadata in the DatAdvantage interface, DCF enables actionable intelligence for data governance, including a prioritized report of those folders with the most exposed permissions AND containing the most sensitive data.

- Actionable Intelligence
 - Classification information provides visibility into business-critical content from within the Varonis IDU
 - Organizations can see where their most sensitive data is over-exposed along with actionable recommendations on where that access can be reduced
- Extensible Architecture
 - The provided data classification engine provides a powerful and flexible method for classifying sensitive data through regular expressions and dictionary searches.
 - The Data Classification Framework can also integrate content classification data from third-party classification and DLP products, extending the ability of both
 - Intelligent, fast
 - True incremental scanning is attained with DatAdvantage real-time knowledge of all file creations and modifications—only new data is classified
 - Produces rapid-time-to-value results that have a clear remediation path or “next step”
 - Produces results dramatically faster than traditional approaches
- Leverages existing infrastructure
 - Can use either its built-in classification engine or those already deployed
 - Uses the unique meta-data layer created by the Varonis Intelligent Data Use (IDU) Framework
 - Builds on the foundation of the Varonis IDU Framework, with no need for additional servers or storage
 - Results flow into Varonis DatAdvantage and Varonis DataPrivilege (*future*)
- Easy, powerful classification rules
 - Rules match a combination of content AND meta-data conditions (e.g. creator, accessing user, permissions sets)
 - Prioritization based on Varonis metadata (e.g. scan the most exposed folders first)
 - Files are searched for keywords, phrases and/or regular expression patterns
 - Dynamic/auto-updated dictionary matching capabilities

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