

SWCC Showa Holdings

As it strove to share managerial resources across its group companies, SWCC Showa Holdings began to emphasize an IT approach that required a strong identity management system. The company used NetIQ® Identity Manager to achieve a workload reduction and data sharing across applications. It can now transition employees in two days instead of a month.

Overview

SWCC Showa Holdings is an umbrella group of Japanese businesses handling development, manufacture and sales of electrical cables and wires, coils, electrical systems, communications systems and related devices. The company works under the slogan "Creating for the Future."

Challenge

As a holding company, SWCC shares resources across all group companies to boost earnings. The company wanted to adopt an IT approach that could collect and unify communications and data in a sharable format. "To achieve this," said corporate planning department head Noriyuki Mimura, "one major issue that needed to be addressed was the introduction of new identity and access management systems."

"At peak times, it could take a month to handle all of the user authentication and access restriction changes that needed to be made. After adopting Identity Manager, the time required after a transfer is now cut down to two days."

NORIYUKI MIMURA

Corporate Planning Department Head
SWCC Showa Holdings Co., Ltd.

"We began by reworking the foundational network equipment that connects all of our operational sites across the world," Mimura said. "With any network upgrade, security naturally becomes an important issue. As a result, identity management was a major concern of ours."

Solution

After becoming a holding company, SWCC experienced an increase in personnel exchange, with the company transferring or assigning employees across different departments. "All of this movement was difficult to link smoothly with user access rights," Mimura said, "and we needed a system that could solve that problem." The identity management system also had to integrate with the user authentication and access restrictions that SWCC had just instituted with Microsoft Active Directory.

Axio, an SWCC company, suggested Identity Manager as a solution. Axio had worked with four different identity management products internally and had chosen Identity Manager because of its flexibility and expandability. The company proposed the system to SWCC based on its experience and belief that Identity Manager could be flexible enough to handle SWCC's demands.

The new Identity Manager system works with the personnel data in the company's internal system. It allows administrators to migrate user IDs and passwords and set up or change



At a Glance

■ Industry

Manufacturing

■ Location

Japan

■ Challenge

To collect and unify communications and data in a sharable format, the organization needed to introduce a new identity and access management system.

■ Solution

Use Identity Manager to migrate user IDs and passwords and set up or change roles and access rights with a single interface.

■ Results

- + Streamlined user management processes related to personnel transfers
- + Provided the ability to access information for audits easily

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roles and access rights with a single interface whenever events like employee transfers, hires or dismissals occur. The system also offers a single sign-on (SSO) for core business systems such as sales and purchasing.

Results

Before adopting Identity Manager, SWCC staff had to write multiple application forms for every personnel transfer. The solution helped streamline this process. Mimura also praised Identity Manager features on the system administrator side. “There is a regular personnel transfer that takes place in July every year,” he said. “At peak times, it could take a month to handle all of the user authentication and access restriction changes that needed to be made. After adopting Identity Manager, the time required after a transfer is now cut down to two days.”

“Previously,” he continued, “we would run into issues like user IDs for people who have transferred departments or left the company still remaining on the system. Those problems are going to be a thing of the past now.

“The biggest effect Identity Manager had,” Mimura said, “lay in the large variety of link modules provided. We had no method of linking data together before, so customization was always required in order to share data between the personnel data system and the rest of our groupware. With Identity Manager, we can share this data with almost no customization needed.”

SWCC also used Identity Manager to simply and effectively obtain the information needed for its audits. “We’re able to acquire all the data we need,” said Mimura, “so there is no need to go out and gather information later on for our audits.”

SWCC eventually wants to manage data beyond basic personnel information like insurance, pension and salary so it can automate the entire role migration process. For example, SWCC wants to implement its job assignment management in Identity Manager. Said Mimura, “making this fully automated may prove to be a tough task, but I have great expectations for Identity Manager going into the future.”



Worldwide Headquarters

515 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1200
Houston, Texas 77027 USA
+1 713 548 1700
888 323 6768
info@netiq.com
www.netiq.com
www.netiq.com/communities/

For a complete list of our offices

in North America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America, please visit: www.netiq.com/contacts