Reveal security

Silverstein Properties Mitigates Insider Risk with Reveal Security

Reveal Security platform continuously monitors users and IT admin activity in Yardi to accurately detect insider threats

Company Profile

Silverstein Properties is a full-service real estate development, investment and management firm. The firm owns and operates a portfolio of high-quality assets valued at over $10 billion, with nearly 16 million square feet of commercial, residential and retail space across ten office towers in Manhattan, Philadelphia and Los Angeles, a luxury hotel in Orlando, and two luxury rental buildings in Midtown Manhattan. They also have 9 million square feet of development underway.

Silverstein Properties is a vertically integrated company with over 400 employees managing all aspects of development, acquisitions and real estate asset management. These disciplines include operational management, asset management, commercial leasing, residential rental and sales, construction management, acquisitions, finance, accounting, risk management, marketing, public relations, and real estate technology and innovation.

Challenge

Like many real estate firms, Silverstein Properties uses Yardi ERP as their financial and accounting system. Given its extensive management of various types of financial data, Yardi is a prime target for cyber threats, including insider threats and fraud.

Although Silverstein Properties is a privately held company, a portion of their business is publicly traded, requiring adherence to Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) guidelines. These guidelines include strict requirements for segregation of duties, documented processes, and approvals.

According to Yael Urman, CTO of Silverstein Properties, they followed SOX controls by conducting regular user access reviews and storing audit logs from the Yardi system but found limited value in their approach. Urman described it as, "reactive... or even retroactive," and sought near-term visibility of user exceptions to rules. "We could see some anomalies this way, but we would discover it a month or longer after they happened. And if a user removed themselves immediately, then we might not even see it at all."

Urman emphasized the importance of ensuring users, particularly their IT administrators or "super users," adhered to policy. "We wanted to be more proactive with our security. Not reactive," Urman added.
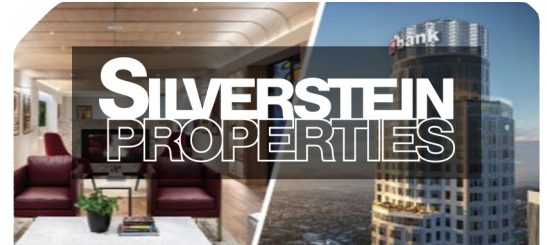
Results:

- Accurate detection of insider threats and fraud in Yardi financial system

- Reduced MTTD and MTTR

- Supports SOX compliance

- Enables a "Trust, but verify" approach to user activity in SaaS applications

> " We trust our users but we need to make sure whatever they do is within policy. There's a risk that users will not follow the rules or will find a back door. Reveal Security helps us find these exceptions. "
>
> Yael Urman,
> CTO, Silverstein Properties

Solution

Urman was introduced to Reveal Security and she saw an opportunity to gain greater visibility into how users were interacting with the Yardi system.

"The rules are there to ensure trust. If users don't follow the rules, it could be fraud or an operational mistake. With Reveal Security, we get visibility into these exceptions in close to real-time, allowing us to conduct swift investigations," said Urman.

Yardi provides audit logs on user changes in the Yardi database. The Reveal Security platform ingests these logs and analyzes them to detect and alert on abnormal user activity, indicating potential insider threats, fraud, or user errors.

Reveal Security uses unsupervised machine learning to detect anomalous user behavior post authentication across applications and provides tools for investigating anomalies. The platform's high accuracy in detecting anomalies reduces noise and alert fatigue compared to alternative solutions and provides actionable insights, enabling Silverstein Properties to reduce insider risk and improve their overall security posture.

Results

With Reveal Security, Urman is more confident that users and super users are following the rules and that the company has a proactive approach to detecting anomalies in Yardi, their critical financial application.

"We have all these logs from Yardi that we are required to store because it is a financial system. Integrating Reveal Security into the system so we could leverage the log data was not a big effort and just made sense. It was low-hanging fruit," Urman commented.

"Most CIOs or CISOs responsible for securing financial systems will see the value in Reveal Security's solution. With very little effort, Reveal Security enables you to abstract important security data from logs that you already have and pay for."

> " I don't know of any solution other than Reveal Security that tracks and monitors behavior inside application systems using unsupervised ML with such high accuracy and operational efficiency. "

> " It was quick and easy to integrate Reveal Security into our security operations. "

> Yael Urman,
> CTO, Silverstein Properties

About Reveal Security

Reveal Security quickly and accurately detects insider threats and identity-based attacksin and across SaaS, cloud and on-premises applications. The Reveal Security platform is the only solution in the market based on patented Identity Journey Analytics™ technology that uses unsupervised machine learning to learn the usage patterns or typical "journeys"of human and machine identities in applications and uses it to detect anomalies. This approach delivers a superior level of accuracy and context, reduces alert volumes by orders of magnitude, and enables the business to respond quickly before a material breach can occur.

For more information, visit www.reveal.security