Case Study: Opower

Opower Reduces Audit Risk by Using Fastpath Assure for their Segregation of Duties Analysis in Intacct

Situation

Opower, the global leader in cloud-based software for the utility industry, was experiencing a rapid rate of growth. It quickly became apparent that a Segregation of Duties (SoD) analysis was needed to ensure appropriate user access inside of their Intacct ERP system.

The organization was utilizing spreadsheets of incompatible functions to manually review their SoD analysis. In addition, they were relying on their employees to know exactly what they could and could not do within Intacct. This process proved to be very time consuming and unreliable.

Opower became concerned about their risk and the accuracy of these reviews. They knew they needed a better process.

Solution

Rapid Implementation, Accurate and Instantaneous Analysis, Clearer Identification of Conflicts

After looking at alternatives to the manual process, Opower found the best option was Fastpath's Assure tool. They quickly realized Assure would be an important part of ensuring their success.

Assure allows companies to easily perform SoD analysis and security access reviews. Implementation takes hours/days—not weeks or months.

"The integration process was very smooth. The Fastpath team was very helpful along the way," said Matt Abend, Manager, Internal Controls & Policy at Opower. "It is easy and intuitive to import your data and analyze it."

With the Assure tool up and running, Opower had the opportunity to become familiar with the tool as well as use many features included in it.

"Assure imports your access privileges for everyone, and within 5 minutes it produces the findings in Excel reports that are easy to manipulate and organize so you can do your analysis," said Abend.

OPOWER

> "It is the only tool I've found that makes an SoD analysis in Intacct possible."

Matt Abend, Opower

Results

Simpler SoD analysis than ever expected, while increasing productivity.

Abend was concerned. "I was worried about what our auditors would say when they reviewed our manual SOD Analysis," he said.

Now, instead of spending countless hours and hoping for a somewhat accurate SoD analysis, Opower is able to rely on Fastpath's Assure for both accurate and quick analysis. Fastpath's solutions have brought confidence and a sense of ease to an otherwise tedious internal process, as well as reduced their risk of incompatible duties across their accounting team.

After installing Assure, they were able to understand conflicting permissions from a SoD perspective and able to easily identify and analyze any noted risks. And one of the biggest advantages of Assure was a cost savings. Abend estimates a 90% time savings for doing an SoD analysis. This time savings allows them to report on SoD more frequently, and likely saves thousands of dollars.

About Opower

Founded in 2007, Opower's technology is transforming the way utilities relate to their customers. Publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the stock ticker OPWR, Opower has been named a Bloomberg New Energy Finance Pioneer, EURELECTRIC's Company of the Year, and among the 20 fastest growing tech companies in North America.

About Fastpath

At Fastpath, our mission is to deliver software solutions that seamlessly empower our clients to take control of their security, compliance and risk management initiatives.

If you are spending countless hours preparing for your audits, struggling to comply with legislative requirements like Sarbanes Oxley (SOX), HIPAA, FDA, or just need help reviewing who has access to what within your ERP, Fastpath can help.

Fastpath's suite of tools can help your company with risk analysis, access certification, role management, compliant user provisioning, emergency access management, and continuous monitoring.

Our tools work across many platforms including Microsoft Dynamics (AX, GP, NAV, SL and CRM), NetSuite, Intacct, Oracle EBS and Acumatica.