



Access Intelligence Executive Brief

Benefits

- Quickly and easily identifies, quantifies and manages the areas of access risk that can negatively impact your business
- Lowers the potential for loss to the business such as intellectual property, sensitive data and other proprietary information
- Streamlines audit preparation, improves audit results
- Increases operational efficiency while reducing costs

How Does Access Risk Impact Your Business?

In today's dynamic business environment, protecting sensitive information is not only complex, it's mission critical and, in most cases, it's required by corporate and industry polices and a litany of government and industry regulations. But the complexity of monitoring and managing the massive volume of information in a typical organization's Identity and Access Management (IAM) system can be overwhelming, and require substantial resources. And that's where access intelligence comes in.

Gartner, the world's leading information technology research and advisory company, defines Identity and Access Intelligence as "the process of gathering data about identity and access, and converting it to information and knowledge for action-oriented insight and intelligent decision making in IT and business."¹

In other words, by leveraging access intelligence, organizations will have the ability to leverage their IAM data and information to assess and manage access risk, enabling them to make informed decisions about potential business risks.

So it all comes down to this – How does access risk impact your business?

Access risk management encompasses traditional IAM functions associated with managing user access and access governance functions, such as access certification and compliance management. And while many organizations have strong policies, controls and certifications to protect against security and intellectual property risks, they may not be leveraging the access intelligence necessary to mitigate their access risk.

The areas of risk and the areas of potential loss to your business are one and the same – intellectual property and critical data such as Personally Identifiable customer and employee Information (PII) or Personal Health Information (PHI). These are the assets upon which your business relies to operate efficiently and ensure its competitive advantage. Group them all together and you've got aggregate risk, and the seemingly unlimited potential for exposing your most valuable assets.

The Courion Solution

Courion addresses these challenges with Access Insight[™], the industry's premier access intelligence solution. Access Insight is a comprehensive, best practices solution that enables organizations to identify, quantify and manage access risk to vital information while demonstrating corporate and regulatory compliance, and increasing operational efficiency. And unlike other

business intelligence solutions, Access Insight presents you with real-time risks – not static information generated on a report – so you'll always have accurate data on which to base your decisions.

Just as credit card companies do today, Access Insight shows you patterns of normal access activity, while automatically alerting you to signs of nefarious behavior such as: employees preparing to leave the company and downloading huge amounts of critical data during non-business hours; credentials that have been compromised by any means of attack; or an application whose use is growing to the point where it will become a high risk to the company – *and* gives you the tools to ensure that the appropriate controls are in place. The result – near-real-time views of all company IAM and IAG activities and the resulting quantified risks, with the ability to send notifications to relevant parties.

Mitigate Potential Access Risk... Before It Impacts Business Performance

Countless organizations and government agencies have had critical data compromised, along with their reputations and their bottom lines. With high profile data breaches occurring almost daily, how often do you think that it might have been *your* organization you were reading about?

An organization may have hundreds of applications, thousands of employees and contractors, partners and vendors, and tens of thousands of file shares resulting in tens of millions of access relationships. But by ensuring that the right people have the right access to the right information and are doing the right things based on policy, organizations can manage access risk.

A recent study from the IT Policy Compliance Group surveyed IAM programs in 4500 enterprises.² It came as little surprise that the highest performing organizations were also the most mature in terms of managing business risk. But in order to manage business risk, organizations must first understand access risk – and how exposing themselves to access risk will ultimately impact overall business performance.

Access Insight lowers your access risk *and* the potential financial impact to your organization – continuously gathering, synchronizing and analyzing an organization's IAM information from multiple identity sources; alerting you to potential access risk threats *before* problems occur; and providing you with the tools you need to see the *level of risk* a potential threat might pose – giving you the opportunity to respond immediately.

Works Well With Others

Access Insight improves operational efficiency and reduces operational costs, integrating with Courion's Access Risk Management Suite seamlessly, as well as other IAM systems. The Access Risk Management Suite is a prescriptive, best practices IAM solution that provides all the tools, processes and capabilities you need for effective Identity and Access Management, with options to deploy either on premise or in the cloud.



Figure 1: Example of risk heat maps and access details

Bottom line – Access Insight enables organizations to successfully identify the areas of access risk that are driving business risk, focusing on what really matters – lowering the potential for financial impact to the business; rapidly identifying and remediating emerging threats, and security and access risk issues; lowering operational costs; achieving faster and easier audits; and ultimately providing a more secure environment for the entire organization.

About Courion

Courion, the leader in identity and access (IAM) management solutions that effectively and securely manage user access risk, helps companies

manage risks associated with information access. More than 14 million users in 500 organizations worldwide rely on Courion's solutions to align user access privileges with corporate and regulatory governance policies.

Courion's best-of-breed solutions enable organizations to identify, quantify and manage access risks to vital information including intellectual property, medical records, personally identifiable information and customer data, while demonstrating regulatory compliance.

Courion's cloud and on-premise solutions offer full arrays of IAM functions such as: identity and access governance, user provisioning and password management, in affordable packages that deliver faster time to value and lower total cost of ownership than other industry solutions.

With an automated, policy-driven user access platform, Courion helps customers leverage intelligence to make informed decisions about their business and improve security ensuring that the right people have the right access to the right information and are doing the right things.

For more information, visit our website at www.courion.com or contact us at info@courion.com.

¹ Gartner, "Identity and Access Intelligence: Making IAM Relevant to the Business," January 14, 2011
² IT Policy Compliance Group, "How High Performance Organizations Manage IT," April, 2011

