

Acciona Strengthens Security and Compliance with CA Identity Manager and CA Identity Governance



CLIENT PROFILE

Industry: Infrastructure, energy, water and services

Company: Acciona

Employees: 33,559

Revenue: €6.5 billion

BUSINESS

Acciona is one of Spain's largest corporations, operating in infrastructure, energy, water and services in more than 30 countries. It has over 33,000 employees and aims to contribute to economic growth, social welfare and to protect the environment.

CHALLENGE

The company must comply with strict regulations around IT security, system access and segregation of duties. It was also keen to reduce manual errors in identity management and increase efficiency.

SOLUTION

CA Identity Manager and CA Identity Governance help Acciona securely manage identity and access controls for more than 7,000 users.

BENEFIT

Acciona has reduced IT security threats, more efficiently met its audit and regulatory compliance requirements and increased efficiency and user satisfaction.

Business

Development and management of infrastructure, renewable energy, water and services in Spain and across the globe

Acciona is a Spanish business group with a presence in more than 30 countries and across five continents. The group has over 33,000 employees, and has undergone a major transformation from its roots as one of Spain's largest construction companies to becoming a pioneer in development and sustainability by diversifying into renewable energies and water treatment.

The company has two major business lines: Infrastructure and Energy. Acciona Energy is a world leader in the field of renewable energy sources. It takes on the mission of demonstrating the technical and economic viability of a new energy model based on criteria of sustainability. Acciona Energy has 20 years' experience in the sector. It is present in seven technologies and in more than 20 countries – 14 of them with owned operational assets – and deploys its activity throughout the value chain.

The Infrastructure business line includes construction, engineering, water and services. Acciona is an internationally recognized benchmark in construction, engineering, infrastructure management and R&D and Innovation. It has inherited from its founder companies a legacy of more than a hundred years of experience in construction activities, as well as a philosophy based on sustainability, quality, innovation and experience. Acciona is familiar with every aspect of construction, from engineering to project execution, maintenance and also the management of public works awards.

The company's corporate motto 'Pioneers in development and sustainability' reflects its commitment to boosting economic growth, social welfare and protecting the environment, and this has been recognized through its inclusion in the Dow Jones and FTWSE4Good sustainability indexes.

Challenge

Safeguarding security and user access

“We need to be able to control and govern who is accessing our network.”

Juan Ignacio Gordon
Security Manager, Acciona

With concepts such as Smart Cities and the Internet of Things set to become incorporated in Acciona's work in construction, renewable energy and water treatment, IT security is a major concern for the organisation. The business needs to ensure that key data from its cutting-edge technologies can be securely transmitted across its sites.

Historically, most requests for user access to such critical systems were carried out manually, which led to mistakes and inaccuracies. As Juan Ignacio Gordon, Security Manager at Acciona, explains, “Privilege rights are based on an individual's job role, and only granted following a risk assessment. We need to be able to control and govern who is accessing our network, using what device and from where.”

With a reduced IT team responsible for granting new users with access privileges in Active Directory, Acciona needed to balance business demand with due diligence. “We must meet our objective of enforcing best practices, while also complying with laws regarding data protection and role segregation,” confirms Gordon.

To simplify compliance and enable more effective identity and access management, Acciona needed to transition from a reactive to a preventive approach.

Solution

Identity management for more than 7,000 users

To improve IT security and simplify user access, Acciona investigated five key solutions. Gordon comments, “We carried out a number of test use cases using the different solutions to test their ability to manage identities correctly. Their ability to manage data loading, data sources, synchronisation and discovery were also key factors.”

Acciona eventually selected CA Identity Manager and CA Identity Governance due to their comprehensive functionality. During the testing exercises, the solutions demonstrated the ability to assign roles, analyse risk, check security certifications and verify user access privileges in an agile manner. The CA Technologies solutions also integrate with data protection systems to provide greater controls around corporate data.

“We saw that CA Identity Manager and CA Identity Governance can simplify access for users who need to log on to several different systems,” explains Gordon. “We worked with consultants from everis to deploy the solutions; they met every deadline and demonstrated a high level of technical expertise.”

The CA Technologies solutions help manage user access to business-critical applications installed on employee devices, such as CRM (customer relationship management), email, voice over IP and video-conferencing solutions. “We are currently working with more than 7,000 user identities in various systems, which we expect will reach 11,000 within a year,” adds Gordon.

External users, such as service providers, partners and consultants, account for 10 percent of these users. Although the CA Technologies identity and access management solutions are currently only used in Spain, Acciona plans to extend their usage to other international locations within the year.

Benefit

Simplified regulatory compliance

Acciona’s IT department will be able to assign roles and identify anomalies to simplify compliance with current regulations. Enhanced identity management also enables the company to meet audit requirements and make changes to user privileges faster.

Gordon comments, “It used to take 48 hours to change user privileges; now the process is automated it will take just a few minutes. As well as achieving efficiency savings, we’ve also reduced risk as we’ve been able to simplify privilege levels; the lower the complexity, the fewer the mistakes.”

Since adopting the CA Technologies solutions, Acciona has been able to:

- Minimize the effort for compliance with data protection regulations
- Provide better data access for employees and external vendors
- Create reports required to meet audit requirements more easily.

Acciona now has confidence in the quality and management of its identity data and expects to achieve return on investment within three years.

“CA Identity Manager and CA Identity Governance can help us lower security risks such as data leakage, while ensuring we can give the right access to the right people, even from mobile devices,” comments Gordon. “Now that we have a very high degree of confidence about the identity of the user, we can provide faster and better access to our services.”



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