

Northdoor plc adopts GeoLang's Ascema Sensitive Data Discovery Solution

Ascema Data Discovery identifies, protects and reports on sensitive data across your digital estate including PCs, laptops and servers, as well as cloud applications and servers, email archives, O365 and Alfresco repositories.

Client Background

There are many reasons why so many companies choose Northdoor plc for their data security needs – not least that Northdoor have a policy of testing out solutions on their own internal needs before recommending to clients. Northdoor plc is an IT Consultancy specialising in Data – helping clients to exploit this asset for competitive edge.

Northdoor services cover the entire data journey from security to business process management.

“Data can be considered to be the lifeblood of the business and we help our clients with all aspects of data as it flows through the business. But we also need to be sure that we know where our client’s data resides within our own systems.”

AJ Thompson, Chief Commercial Officer Northdoor

The Problem

Driven in part by recognition that there are now new, affordable easy to deploy technologies available to assist end users and enterprises in the secure management of high value information, coupled with the threat of high monetary penalties under new regulations such as the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and the UK’s Data Protection Act, Northdoor actively seek the latest in information security and organisational resilience solutions that ensure they consistently remain both competitive in their offerings to clients and compliant within their own business.

Areas of particular concern surround the levels of information faced by security personnel today. It is simply not possible to review the thousands of records that are returned by many of the security systems that monitor and log potential threats -meaning they are not fully operational.

Additionally, many systems tie organisations into lengthy contracts often with expensive appliances - and time to value length can also extend to weeks, if not months. Coupled with extended procurement processes, this often means time from concept to provision of a solution is upwards of 24 months.

Northdoor were looking for a solution not only to recommend to their clients but for internal use too, with many contracts now stipulating parties should have the ability to locate, secure and/or delete third party data at will - and be able to evidence readily.

Northdoor recognised that a method of searching for sensitive unstructured data across the entire digital estate - including endpoints, cloud-based applications and servers, email archives and internal servers, is now a significant requirement to meet both contractual and compliance obligations in a digitally resilient and privacy lead society.

The Solution

GeoLang's Ascema Platform for Sensitive Data Discovery provided Northdoor with the solution. Security teams no longer have time to review the thousands of alerts and logs generated by today's data security solutions that are a necessary requirement for security and compliance reporting.

Ascema alerts the end user in real time and offers an elegant and simple interface for end user remediation. Automated checking by Ascema that end user remediation is complete negates the need for the security team to look at each individual alert - turning the employee into an active member of the enterprise security team.

Elegantly and simply deployed in minutes, with the ability to search at a unique granular level for sensitive data, report and log matches for compliance purposes whilst training enterprise employees on enterprise information security policies, sensible data governance and providing the tools to easily and effectively remediate, Ascema can be supplied either as a Managed one-time or quarterly Sensitive Data Discovery Scan-as-a-Service, as an annual subscription managed by the enterprise themselves or a combination of both.

"Finding and classifying personally identifiable information within a sea of unstructured data is a particularly challenging problem...I was introduced to a product that claimed to be able to find and classify everything we had ever produced – the downside, however, was threefold: The installation was tricky, the server size requirements were huge, and the amount of time it would take to process our data was considerable – several days in fact. Since then I have been introduced to Ascema – and the contrast could not be greater. The Ascema Data Discovery tool virtually detected every unstructured file type I could throw at it; but beyond that, the installation – a simple Manager/endpoint agent deployment - was incredibly straightforward and effective."

Rob Batters, Director of Managed & Technical Services at Northdoor

Ascema Data Discovery identifies, protects and reports on sensitive data across your digital estate including PCs, laptops and servers; as well as O365, Alfresco repositories, cloud sync folders, AWS, Azure and email archives. By providing powerful search, real time alerts including on USBs and removable drives, remediation and training capabilities to administrators, analysts and end-users, visibility of sensitive data at content level is available across the enterprise for the first time - allowing for a timely response to external requests, such as Data Subject Access or Freedom of Information Requests whilst assisting with compliance reporting and training.

Do you know where your sensitive data resides?

Ascema has been designed and engineered by GeoLang Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Shearwater Group plc

