

## VimpelCom

### Reducing the Cost of Compliance in the Russian Telecommunications Sector



The growth in new threats to information security in critical business infrastructures means that compliance with standard requirements is an enduring problem. Organizations are compelled to divert significant resources away from finding solutions to their core business problems towards meeting their compliance needs. Research indicates that companies spent at least 15 percent of their technology budget on ensuring compliance with various standard requirements in 2006. For joint-stock companies whose shares are quoted on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), the necessity of meeting the high Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) standards required of issuers provides a major incentive in optimizing their IT security arrangements. Organizations using a unified solution to ensure compliance with a range of standard requirements spend only around one tenth of the resources expended by other companies.

#### ORGANIZATION PROFILE

VimpelCom provides telecommunications services under the BeeLine brand and is one of the three leading cellular communications operators in the Russian market. Forty two million subscribers use the company's services in Russia alone.

#### INDUSTRY

Telecommunications

#### SOLUTION

IT Compliance

#### One of the World's Leading International Communications Companies

Under prevailing conditions of rapid growth, VimpelCom had not succeeded in implementing standard information security (IS) requirements across its business. The companies acquired by the VimpelCom Group in Russia and the CIS states need to be integrated into a unified environment within the framework of the entire group of companies. Since they have different degrees of development and maturity, however, significant efforts were required to find a common denominator.

A leading Russian mobile communications operator like the VimpelCom Group has to be looking to manage compliance with established IS standards ever more strictly in view of the fast growth of business. Any weak link may lead to unjustified risks throughout the organization. The quantity of work servers, databases, and workstations is simply too great to allow IS security to be controlled extensively and quickly enough.

At the same time, legislation demands the development of an internal system to control key business processes—as well as the IT infrastructure where the business logic is implemented. This stipulates in some detail the IS process and organization of procedures necessary for monitoring compliance with international and corporate requirements. VimpelCom's IT Security Department thus urgently needed an effective solution that did not require any extensive upgrading.

**“This was the first Symantec Security Compliance Management solution to be implemented not only in Russia, but throughout the CIS states.”**

#### Dmitriy Ustuzhanin

Head of Information Security  
Department, IT Directorate  
VimpelCom

Symantec Control Compliance Suite improved IT security audit management and saved resources allocated for security compliance audits.

### Improve Information Security Using Symantec Control Compliance Suite

To solve the problem, the systems integrator Bell Integrator proposed to use Symantec™ Control Compliance Suite and its agentless target system scanning technology to fine-tune data collection and report generation in accordance with VimpelCom's IT security policy requirements. The primary objectives were to:

- Improve information security levels
- Reduce expenses relating to internal and external IS audit procedures
- Develop a unified centralized IT security policy and check all servers and workstations for compliance with the approved policy
- Minimize intra-corporate differences in approaches to information security and automate the IS audit process
- Automate the SOX control performance procedure within the server and database IT infrastructure area

The Symantec Control Compliance Suite solution deployed by Bell Integrator experts is set up to audit over 100 business units and six companies in the CIS countries. It was introduced in two stages. First, Bell Integrator experts deployed a pilot version of the product, assessed solution functionality and its influence on the operation of scanned systems. They also fine-tuned IS standards to the VimpelCom's internal policies. The second stage involved the mass connection of scanned servers. While this was still in progress, Bell Integrator experts developed detailed technical regulations for the operation of the system. "This was the first Symantec Security Compliance Management solution to be implemented not only in Russia, but throughout the CIS states," says Dmitriy Ustuzhanin, head of the IS assurance service at VimpelCom.

**“We have reduced the cost of ensuring compliance with the IT security policy, made the server audit 400 times faster than it was before, and confirmed uniform intra-corporate standards. It is now ten times easier to monitor compliance with IS requirements.”**

**Dmitriy Ustuzhanin**

Head of Information Security Department, IT Directorate  
VimpelCom

## SOLUTION AT A GLANCE

### Business Drivers

- Reduce internal IS audit costs
- Reduce technology and brand risk
- Generate reports in accordance with compliance requirements

### Technology Challenges

- Develop and implement IT security standards
- Educate staff on using the compliance management system
- Put the Compliance Management system into industrial operation

### Solution

Comprehensive solution for compliance process automation and risk management

### Symantec Products

- Symantec™ Control Compliance Suite 8.6

### Technology Environment

- Operating systems: Microsoft® Windows® 2000/2003/XP, Sun® Solaris®
- Databases: 20 Microsoft SQL 2000/2005 and Oracle® databases
- Servers: 1,500 Windows servers, 800 UNIX servers
- Workstations: More than 12,000

### Symantec Partner

- The Bell Integrator Company

## BUSINESS VALUE AND TECHNICAL BENEFITS

- Saving resources allocated by the company for information security compliance auditing
- Reduced risk of unauthorized data access through rigorous execution of security policy
- Automated information security compliance control process
- Reduced the time taken to perform IT audit of each Windows server from three hours to 15 minutes
- Enabled the company to quickly generate almost any standard compliance report
- Provided certified reports on infrastructure compliance to international standards
- Minimized load on scanned servers

### Automates Introduction of Security Policies and Ensures Compliance with Security Standards

Symantec Control Compliance Suite automates security policy introduction and security condition assessment, and ensures compliance with security standards. It delivers detailed reports on the degree of the organization's compliance with its own technical standards and enables the use of special requests and the receipt of reports on user rights. Just as importantly, Symantec Control Compliance Suite provides a series of clear and practical steps to remedy the situation should non-compliant servers or workstations be found within the organization.

Symantec Control Compliance Suite supports basic configurations for all established operating systems and creates a special technical standard or reference template based on previously created internal standards. It also exports technical standards for such functions as archiving and ensuring uninterrupted business operations, and establishes 1085 technical standards on the basis of technical standards packages for operating systems and applications which include Microsoft Windows, UNIX, Linux, NetWare, SQL Server, Oracle, and Microsoft Exchange.

In addition, Symantec Control Compliance Suite assesses and monitors compliance with configuration standards to detect deviations (in non-compliant systems) rapidly, simultaneously automating its assessment of compliance with technical standards by counting 'compliant/non-compliant' points and thus avoiding manual operations that require many hours to detect and analyze deviations. The solution also e-mails a link to the compliance audit results, which can be viewed by the manager from any point of the IT infrastructure using the Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and ensures that any deviations are eliminated rapidly. As a result, the risk of occurrence of discrepancies is significantly lowered along with gaps in the security system and interruptions to business operations.

Commenting on the value of the solution, Sergey Sazhin says, "The general VimpelCom IT security requirements were stated to be at a high level at the outset of the project. Introduction of the Security Compliance Management solution enabled us to draw up a list of IS audits required for specific applications and operating systems. Thanks to the work of the Bell Integrator experts, we have obtained a convenient, effective and fast audit tool adapted to our high standards. I would especially like to stress the willingness of the Bell Integrator experts to tailor the existing product to our needs as far as possible. Detailed system operation regulations were developed in addition to fine-tuning, and these have considerably facilitated the training of our employees."