



NAC to the Future: CounterACT Solves Longterm Network Security Challenges for SITA UK

“ ForeScout’s CounterACT offers a customizable Network Access Control (NAC) solution that’s well-suited for SITA UK’s network topology and requirements. We found that it eliminated the need to re-invest in costly LAN/WAN hardware. And more. It delivered value-adding feature/functions that were not on our checklist, combining NAC and Intrusion Prevention System (IPS) into a clientless application that would scale with our future business requirements. ”

Mike Carr
IT Security Manager at SITA UK

Each day over 12 million residential customers benefit from SITA UK’s recycling and waste management services. From over 220 locations the company’s services cover everything from recycling and waste collection to treatment and disposal.

Such a distributed work force demands an IT infrastructure that supports seamless inter-office communications and centralized management. And, with this many users, maintaining network security while minimizing network disruptions and downtime is business-critical.

In 2006, SITA UK began looking for a network access control solution to help manage the daunting amounts of WAN traffic while maintaining business connectivity. After evaluating an in-line solution from its preferred router/switch provider and discovering the solution would press them into costly WAN hardware replacements, SITA UK turned to ForeScout CounterACT.

Why ForeScout?

SITA UK’s IT Security Manager Mike Carr and his staff were looking for a cost-effective, clientless NAC solution that would ‘fit’ within SITA’s distributed environment and provide greater ease-of-management. They evaluated several NAC solutions and ForeScout’s CounterACT came out on top.

According to Carr:

“We chose CounterACT when we discovered it met all of our varied requirements: it was able to interrogate and protect network traffic, ensuring only authorized business traffic was permitted; and it ensured all devices connected and connecting on our network were authorized, and were running up-to-date operating, applications and security software. Further, because CounterACT was device-agnostic and clientless, it plugged right into our existing architecture and will scale with our future requirements.”

A CounterACT 2000 (CT-2000) was installed by SITA UK in April 2007, supporting up to 2,500 devices.

How ForeScout Helped

Identified and controlled rogue network traffic and non-SITA UK devices.

- » Simplified management, policy enforcement and reporting.
“Policy creation, IPS and integration into our router and switch environment were all very quick and report generation is simple through pre-defined report templates.”
- » Offered complete visibility of network and attached devices.
“We have confidence in our ability control and readily enforce company-wide or device-specific policies, and will encounter little or no management overhead when deploying new technology around the solution.”
- » Delivered best-in-class internal audit capabilities.
“CounterACT improved our ability to quickly complete asset, vulnerability and patch management, and offered comprehensive audit reports against our many, and often granular, security policies.”

The ForeScout Difference

Carr enjoyed the feature set, flexibility and scalability that CounterACT had to offer:

“ForeScout CounterAct is truly feature-rich, offering us key differentiators such as behavioural analysis that does not require signatures, and in a clientless application! Put simply, it’s “NAC to the future”: a complete and forward-moving solution that helps us mitigate the risks associated with managing complex, highly integrated and distributed business networks as we continue to grow our business operations.”