



International Rectifier

International Rectifier Protects Network with ForeScout CounterACT™

INDUSTRY

Manufacturing

ENVIRONMENT

8,000 devices across 35 office locations in 20 countries

CHALLENGE

- Prevent unauthorized computers from connecting to the network
- Implement an easy-to-use network access control system to control guest network access
- Ensure endpoint compliance

SOLUTION

- Ease of deployment, required fewer network changes
- Intuitive user interface and ease of use
- Avoid business productivity disruption

RESULTS

- Greater security through enforcement of network access policies
- Improved endpoint compliance by having the ability to generate accurate inspections of all devices on the network
- Full network visibility
- Rapidly deployed system delivered fast time to value

Overview

Headquartered in El Segundo, California, International Rectifier is a world leader in advanced power management technology. The company has 35 offices in 20 countries and employs 4,500 people worldwide. The corporate network spans 8,500 endpoints.

Business Challenge

James Tu, Director of Information Security with International Rectifier, needed to eliminate the possibility that visitors, contractors and guests could connect to the network. He needed to ensure that only corporate-owned devices would be connected to the internal network. He wanted a tool that would allow him to efficiently identify guest devices and isolate them to guest networks.

Why ForeScout?

International Rectifier extensively evaluated and benchmarked the leading vendors and selected ForeScout CounterACT™ because it required fewer network changes; and was less disruptive and easier to deploy. Other considerations were that ForeScout was easy to administer, had an easy-to-use interface and proved to be an excellent security compliance tool.

“ForeScout CounterACT was extremely easy to deploy and got up and running very quickly. Once deployed, it requires minimal management. We are also very impressed with ForeScout CounterACT’s user interface and ease of use. To me, allowing an endpoint to connect and then verifying status and enforcing policy, which is how we have setup ForeScout CounterACT, is a much better model than assuming the endpoint is insecure and denying access until status is verified, which is how the other NAC products work. It’s far less complicated and disruptive to the users.”

Business Impact

Greater Security and Reduced Risk

ForeScout CounterACT provides International Rectifier with greater security and reduced risk by preventing unauthorized devices from accessing the corporate network. “Our policy is that only company-owned machines are allowed on the internal corporate network. We have a separate guest wireless network for visitors coming onsite that need Internet access. Sometimes a guest, or even an employee, would plug their personal device into a wired port, which put them on the internal network. Before ForeScout CounterACT, we didn’t have a way to monitor the network and enforce the policy. Now we have the ability to identify unauthorized computers and dynamically direct them to a separate, Internet-only VLAN.”

Improved Endpoint Compliance

ForeScout CounterACT provides full endpoint visibility and indicates which computers are running out-of-date applications. “We have used vulnerability assessment tools from Rapid 7 and McAfee, but they are harder to use, and they don’t give the full story. For example, they will tell you that McAfee is installed,



I think ForeScout CounterACT is the best! Our initial goal was to prevent unauthorized computers from connecting to the network. Shortly after implementing ForeScout CounterACT, we discovered it provides full visibility and compliance status of all devices on the network. That is something I didn't have before.

— James Tu, Director of Information Security, International Rectifier

The ForeScout Difference

Key differentiators that contributed to International Rectifier's overall success:

- Deployment in under 3 weeks, including hardware installation, network integration and training
- Full endpoint visibility
- Greater policy enforcement and endpoint compliance

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but they won't tell you if the agent is actually running, or if it is up-to-date. They also don't provide real-time information. I need something to tell me what patches a machine is missing and when antivirus was last updated. With ForeScout CounterACT, it's extremely easy to get this information, plus a lot more detail that I can't get with any other tool. With ForeScout CounterACT, we discovered that some machines were not running antivirus properly. That's a tremendous value to us and it only took a couple of minutes. Now we have a complete process for discovery and help desk remediation. That's something we couldn't do before."

Complete Endpoint Visibility

ForeScout CounterACT provides full visibility to the devices connecting to the network. "What surprised us the most was the amount of network visibility that ForeScout CounterACT gave us. From a single location we can see all our network switches and IP ranges globally, and can tell which switch and which port connect to a particular host. This is tremendous because it's visibility that we didn't have before. Many times we know the IP address of a device, but don't know where the machine is connecting to the network. With ForeScout CounterACT, we just do a search based on an IP address and can tell exactly which switch port connected to the machine. This is very helpful for the help desk people when they need to locate a machine; it saves them a lot of time. We also discovered that some employees had installed personal firewalls. When that happens, our desktop management systems lose visibility of that device. That's not the case with ForeScout CounterACT. The network team loves ForeScout CounterACT because now we can find and control those devices."

Fast Time-to-Value

"We deployed ForeScout CounterACT in under three weeks, including hardware installation, network integration and training. The system is so well designed that I was able to configure it myself. The interface is so easy to use that I was able to write my own rules to check for compliance on antivirus and OS patching. ForeScout CounterACT immediately delivered value beyond the guest network access control by providing information about the security vulnerabilities of known devices. Now we are using ForeScout CounterACT to segment unauthorized or unknown devices to a separate, Internet-only VLAN until we have more information about the device. We then grant known devices access to the network based on meeting compliance policies created by the Security Team."

The ForeScout Difference

"I think ForeScout CounterACT is the best! Our initial goal was to implement a basic NAC solution to prevent unauthorized computers from connecting to the network. Shortly after implementing the product we discovered that ForeScout CounterACT delivers much more value beyond just network control. It provides full visibility and compliance status of all devices on the network, including many devices that we didn't know about. That information is something that I didn't have before. Because ForeScout CounterACT provides so much additional security-related functionality, we have since added more appliances and expanded the use of ForeScout CounterACT to the manufacturing network so that we now have a full view of all the devices in the entire company."