



# Ardentec

## Ardentec Utilizes ForeScout CounterACT® to Gain Real-time Network Visibility and Protection from Unauthorized and Unsecured Devices

### INDUSTRY

Manufacturing

### ENVIRONMENT

4,000 endpoints used by over 1,000 employees across its four manufacturing sites

### CHALLENGE

- Ability to manage the growing number of endpoints
- Improve network visibility
- Reduce the risk of rogue and vulnerable devices gaining access to network resources

### SOLUTION

- Gain endpoint visibility and compliance via agentless monitoring and policy enforcement

### RESULTS

- Deployment ease due to agentless approach and integration with multi-vendor switch infrastructure
- A more transparent view of the network with real-time visibility of endpoints
- Increase in the network security compliance rate of ISO 27001 to 80 percent
- Lowered network asset management risk across the company
- Automated compliance enforcement and blocking of rogue devices
- Streamlined validation of IP and MAC address association

### Overview

Chartered in 1999 in Hsinchu, Taiwan, Ardentec, a provider of semiconductor testing solutions in memory, logic and mixed-signal integrated circuits (ICs) to integrated device manufacturers (IDMs), pure play wafer foundry companies and fables design companies, employs over 1,000 employees and operates four manufacturing sites across Taiwan, Singapore and Korea.

### Business Challenge

As one of Taiwan's top wafer test service providers, the Ardentec IT team's goal was to fortify network security to all of its branch locations in order to gain thorough network visibility and reduce the risk of unauthorized and unsecured devices potentially gaining access to their company network. The approach would also demonstrate commitment to network security for their wide range of global customers. Other priorities included gaining 100 percent traceability of network devices, having accessibility to early warning and alerts of rogue devices and unsecured connection events, and having overall stronger operational insight.

Ardentec worked with InfoSource, a ForeScout distributor, to assess its needs and to determine the requirements for a network control solution. The team quickly realized the need for an agentless approach to simplify and expedite the effort of managing more than 4,000 of their endpoints and preserving user experience. The firm also needed a solution that would be compatible with a broad array of switches and other existing infrastructure components from different manufacturers. After looking at competitive products, Ardentec settled on ForeScout CounterACT® because it met their requirements and offers the most flexible and extensible set of security policies.

### Why ForeScout?

Ardentec chose ForeScout because it provided the simplest, feature-rich and most cost-effective solution that was also easiest to deploy and maintain. CounterACT's effectiveness to provide increased operational insight and its low impact to their existing environment helped in the decision.

The most important reason Ardentec chose ForeScout CounterACT was for its agentless approach while still allowing for strong policy control. ForeScout distinguished itself further by preventing rogue and unmanaged devices from connecting to the network, especially since Ardentec discovered that its users unplug network cables from the factory machines and plug them, instead, into their own devices. Additionally, CounterACT offered the interoperability needed to query Ardentec's authorized device database. Leveraging the ForeScout ControlFabric® interface, CounterACT checks the IP and MAC addresses of devices attempting to connect to the network to make sure they match — a function only ForeScout offered.

Other factors in the choice of CounterACT included its use for identifying and controlling mobile devices, automating the process for controlling guest access to



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— Chris Chou, Director of Management Information Systems, Ardentec

## The ForeScout Difference

Key differentiators that contributed to Ardentec's overall success:

- Agentless solution
- Ease of deployment
- Real-time visibility and endpoint compliance

its network, range of endpoint compliance capabilities, and dashboard, query and audit reporting capabilities.

“With CounterACT, network control is much easier than we ever imagined,” said Chris Chou, director of management information systems for Ardentec. “We had CounterACT up and running across four sites in less than a month. The depth of visibility into devices connecting to the network is amazing, and its simple integrated approach let us easily manage the entire network from one dashboard.”

## Business Impact

### Compliance

The implementation led to an increase in the network security compliance rate of ISO 27001 to 80 percent and lowered network asset management risk overall across the company.

### Asset Classification

Ardentec found additional distinctive uses for CounterACT such as dynamic asset classification, an IP-MAC binding and MAC address validation used for factory devices and connections as well as wireless and mobile device security.

### Real-time Visibility & Endpoint Compliance

CounterACT monitors all devices connecting to Ardentec's network to ensure each endpoint has the correct settings, such as up-to-date antivirus and that the operating system patches are current, per the organization's standard security policies.

## Guest Networking

Prior to implementing CounterACT, Ardentec used a manual process for guest access to its network. Today, when a device attempts to connect wired or wirelessly, CounterACT verifies it against a list of approved devices. Depending on the device provided, rogue devices may be taken off the network, devices may be automatically diverted to Ardentec's guest network or IT may be alerted to investigate the issue.

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## Next Steps

Ardentec is seeking to tighten its management of mobile devices. The firm will use CounterACT to integrate with its MDM solution to enable stronger policy enforcement and more automated security control in support of its BYOD efforts.

Learn more at  
[www.ForeScout.com](http://www.ForeScout.com)



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