

Biotechnology Company, Amyris, Reduces Access Audit Time by 75 Percent

"For me personally, the bigger deal was the time saved in not having to pour over ginormous spreadsheets toggling between role conflict matrix and SOD data dump. For that itself, ERP Maestro was well worth it."

Kavitha Sankar
Director, Business Analysis and Data Management
Amyris



About Amyris

Amyris is an integrated renewable products company providing sustainable alternatives to a number of markets, including specialty and performance chemicals, cosmetic ingredients, pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals.

The Problem

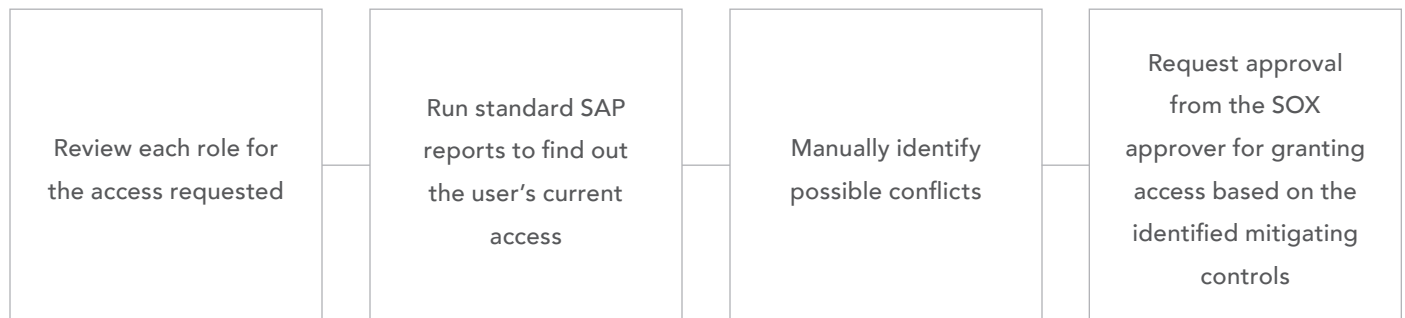
Amyris had a two-fold problem that was sapping the time of the IT General Controls and Application Controls team, affecting compliance and potentially exposing the company to risks.

1. The biotechnology company has over 400 employees and over 150 active SAP users. However, they have a small finance team to process sensitive financial transactions.

Amyris knew that having a small finance team would invariably lead to Segregation of Duties (SOD) conflicts. The company managed to address these conflicts by putting manual mitigating controls in place. This caused their application audits to be longer and excruciatingly labor-intensive. The mere task of mapping mitigating controls to each individual conflict using manual processes was taking the company four weeks in audit time.

Additionally, the audit process needed to be done every year because the data was slightly different from the year before. The manual process led to some SOD risks being missed when identifying mitigating controls, which resulted in the unmitigated conflicts being identified by external auditors and noted as exceptions.

2. The second challenge that Amyris was facing involved the user provisioning process. This was a four-step process in which Amyris had to:



The user provisioning process was a lengthy and laborious process that was heavily reliant on IT. The approvers had little confidence in the level of remediating controls before approving users.

The Solution

After their 2015 audits, Amyris tapped ERP Maestro for automating their SOD analysis and user provisioning. The implementation was done remotely through a web conference, during which ERP Maestros walked the Amyris team through the agent install.

Apart from the quick and painless implementation, Amyris noted a rapid time-to-value in terms of time savings. With ERP Maestro, the audit team's previous laborious processes of having to do an SAP data dump, run data through an internally developed tool to identify SOD conflicts, sift through all the SOD conflicts and manually map mitigating controls based on a risk control matrix to each conflict was now reduced to a single-step process—*automatically running the SOD conflicts report and adding mitigating controls, one time, to these conflicts in Amyris's customized ruleset.*

When a new role was requested, needed to be changed or removed, Amyris used ERP Maestro's Automated Provisioning tool and the "What-if" analysis to simulate the risks in the new or changed roles and to ascertain the impact of the removed role.

Amyris also took advantage of the various analysis reports available in the Access Analyzer tool:

- User Conflict Matrix—to enable conflict remediation
- Business Process Owner (BPO) conflict—to allow business owners to quickly identify risks that require corrective action and also to see the recommended action for each conflicting business function
- Role Conflict Matrix—to build new roles

The Results

For Amyris, the biggest value from using ERP Maestro was time savings. A four-week lengthy, laborious process was cut down to less than a week. Automating the SOD analysis also brought with it huge benefits such as:

- Moving from point-in-time monitoring with heavy reliance on IT and internal controls to automated, real-time access analysis and monitoring
- Saving time by conducting a one-time upload of the ruleset, mitigating controls and eliminating the need to assess the impact of user provisioning manually
- Using the “What-if” simulator to enable more confident approvals as the possible conflicts were assessed prior to the approval

“The implementation was quick and painless, and there were huge savings because we were not constantly assessing the impact of user provisioning data manually.”

Kavitha Sankar
Director, Business Analysis and Data Management
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