



CASE STUDY

Woodside Homes Established Control by Presenting Professional- Looking Reports to External Auditors



Woodside Homes is a home building company that used SysKit Point’s audit reports and email alerts notifying them of potential security issues to take control over the security of their Microsoft 365 environment. They also used license usage reports to optimize license utilization in their company.

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Customer



Woodside Homes is a home building company from the USA with offices across four states. They've been building innovative, sustainable homes since 1977 under the motto „Better By Design“, which ensures everything from carefully selected land to simplifying the home buying process.



„With SysKit Point, you can say we have 35% of inactive licenses costing us this much per year, and it's easy to identify them and resolve this situation.“

Richard Leaf,
Director of Applications at Woodside Homes

Challenge: Providing Efficient Reports to Auditors and Preventing Security Incidents

Richard Leaf is a Director of Applications, in charge of the ERP system, Office 365, SharePoint, Azure, and software licensing. He's been working for the company for 24 years.

Woodside Homes were acquired by a Japanese company, Sekisui House, four years ago. As a publicly traded company, it is subject to auditing requirements for J-SOX compliance. It's the set of Japanese standards for the evaluation and auditing of internal controls over financial reporting. Accordingly, the biggest pain point Richard met was the lack of out-of-the-box Microsoft 365 auditing functionality. Whenever a security incident happened, they would need to provide audit evidence.

However, native capabilities within the SharePoint Online admin center give only a portion of what he needed to provide, and that portion was not user-friendly. He would have to go into the Microsoft 365 console and take screenshots of activity logs on their tenant. He couldn't just make a report, which was very inefficient for them and their auditors. Richard wanted to avoid negative opinions from the auditors about the level of control they have.



Native capabilities within the SharePoint admin center give you only a portion of what you need to provide to auditors, and that portion is not user-friendly.

Richard also had trouble quantifying how much money would be spent on licenses and projecting the numbers to company management. With the native feature setup, he couldn't drill down into details of the licenses, their usage, and activity.

Richard tried to find help in a third-party tool that turned out to be cumbersome to implement. The support was poor, and after spending six months trying to get it working, they couldn't set up the product. Moreover, it was designed for on-prem, while Woodside Homes had already migrated to the cloud.

Solution: SysKit Point's Comprehensive Auditing and Alerting Options

Richard wanted to try another tool for auditing to keep peace of mind. SysKit was recommended to him by an Office 365 consultant a year ago. He showcased audit features to their management and got approval to buy [SysKit Point](#).

With the audit capabilities in Point, Richard can schedule regular reports to his auditors or give them direct access to it via the Point interface. They could also see in simple XLSX format who did what, where, and when – whether it is a change in permissions, configuration, or content.

Richard also uses license reporting and management features to detect inactive licenses and maximize software license usage. With Point, Richard can view exactly how many inactive licenses there are in which departments and their cost.

On top of that, he uses SysKit Point alerts as proactive control over his environment. He has set up alerts to arrive into his inbox, and he's planning to set up the alerts for team managers as well to have more control over their content. Point alerts help him stay on top of unauthorized permissions changes, guest user activity, and suspicious logins.

Richard and his team were delighted with how easy it was to install and upgrade the product along the way. He was also satisfied with the healthy number of enhancements and those on the roadmap. He intends to introduce it to the site and team owners for access reviews and recertifications.

"It's exceptionally easy to implement the trial and roll out the tool! I never used a tool that was that smooth to upgrade."

Results: Established Control by Presenting Professional-Looking Reports to External Auditors

- ✔ With Point's audit options, Richard not only saved time manually printing audit logs from screen shots, but he also built up a strong image of having control over his environment by providing professional-looking reports to auditors.
- ✔ Using Point's alerts, Richard could proactively control his environment and prevent security incidents from happening. That saved his company an external audit and security investigation resources.
- ✔ Without Point, they would struggle with managing licenses and knowing what's going on in their environment. Using Point, they optimized 35% of all company licenses.



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