AQR Capital Management Upgrades Unified Communications Administration and Compliance with Actiance Vantage

Overview:

AQR Capital Management (http://www.aqr.com/) is a well-respected investment management firm. It employs a wide range of technologies, including unified communications, to consult with its clients and interact internally. When it came time to upgrade the firm's instant messaging (IM) management system, the IT team realized that it would need an integrated unified communications (UC) management platform capable of meeting the firm's short-term IM management, security, and compliance needs, and that would support its infrastructure as the UC strategy evolved.

After assessing various options, the AQR Capital Management's IT team selected Vantage from Actiance as the logical platform to manage UC communications, meet security and compliance needs, and grow with the firm.

Introduction:

AQR traders and brokers rely on public as well as private instant messaging channels to communicate, and over time AQR has adopted both enterprise messaging systems and public IM systems for use outside the firewall. Since access to messaging was not universal, it was relatively easy to consolidate chat traffic and filter it for regulatory compliance using Symantec's IM Manager, then archive traffic with Symantec's Enterprise Vault.

However, when AQR learned that IM Manager was no longer being supported, its IT team looked for a new communications management system, one that could meet the firm's needs for the foreseeable future. It chose Vantage from Actiance to filter all its UC traffic, including IM chat.

Pre-emptive Security and Compliance

Like many financial services firms, AQR Capital Management maintains its own enterprise infrastructure with its own private cloud to support users inside and outside the firewall. The firm maintains its own internal policies and procedures for UC access and archives all chat traffic as a regulatory precaution. Suat Pinarli, Systems Engineer for AQR Capital Management, notes that AQR is committed to going beyond the requirements outlined by SAS 70.

"IM Manager was able to do only part of what Vantage is doing for us now," said Pinarli. "By installing Vantage as an IM proxy we know we are filtering everything, and as our UC strategy expands we can

extend our license to turn on the additional features as needed. We have our bases covered for now, and we are ready for any future requirements."

One of the many things that Pinarli likes about Vantage is that it is invisible. Once it was installed and running, he knew Vantage was filtering traffic as required and he has had no issues with the deployment. He receives a weekly activity report on UC traffic so he knows Vantage is doing its job.

Pinarli also is pleased that he can consolidate the entire firm's UC traffic through a central system to manage policy controls and log conversations for IM and group chat. As the UC infrastructure grows, he can use the same centralized controls for VoIP, video, data conferencing, and more. Vantage also offers full support for public IM clients, and features authentication and authorization services to allow or block access at the company, group, or user level. And Vantage protects AQR's UC systems from viruses, malware, and SpIM, as well as providing support for URL blocking. To meet AQR's compliance needs, Vantage also features file transfer capture and eDiscovery retrieval. AQR also can license and activate additional Vantage features as it needs them.

According to Pinarli, AQR's future plans include new technology to support enterprise chat. They are currently assessing Microsoft Lync as a possible platform. But whichever UC platform AQR chooses, Vantage security and compliance system is already in place to manage and archive communications traffic.

About Actiance Vantage

Vantage is Actiance's award-winning platform to provide granular security, management, and compliance for unified communications (UC) and collaboration applications. Vantage supports all the leading collaboration systems including Microsoft Lync Server, Office Communications Server (OCS), IBM Sametime, IBM Connections, Microsoft SharePoint, Jive, and Cisco Unified Presence (CUP), as well as public instant messaging (IM) platforms, and industry-centric networks such as Reuters and Bloomberg.

Vantage is used by the world's largest firms to ensure security, management, and compliance for UC, including everything from presence and instant messaging to conferencing and voice communications. Vantage safely enhances business productivity and responsiveness without compromising network security.

Vantage also can be integrated with Actiance's Unified Security Gateway to enable organizations to ensure that only sanctioned access is allowed for real-time communications.

About Actiance

Actiance enables the safe and productive use of Unified Communications and Web 2.0, including blogs and social networking sites. Formerly FaceTime Communications, Actiance's award-winning platforms are used by more than 1600 customers for the security, management and compliance of unified communications, Web 2.0 and social media channels. Actiance supports or has strategic partnerships with all leading social networks, unified communications providers and IM platforms, including Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter AOL, Google, Yahoo!, Skype, Microsoft, IBM and Cisco.

Actiance is headquartered in Belmont, California. For more information visit http://www.actiance.com or call 1-888-349-3223.