

Automated SAP authorization management and system security for 50 countries

Success Story Takeda



Initial situation: Takeda has deployed major SAP systems worldwide with around 4,000 users in 50 countries. Previously, a complex, internal business process based on various Winword forms was used to manage user account requests and authorization assignment before project start. This involved the printing, signing, forwarding and approval of a series of forms – which was certainly a less than efficient process for the six employees responsible for the control and development of the global user management at Takeda.

Project goals: Takeda’s twin objectives were to accelerate and simplify its authorization assignment process while deploying a tool that was simultaneously capable of providing vulnerability monitoring for its SAP backend worldwide. The aim was to make user management auditable and transparent at all times. Regular reports about potential security risks or role conflicts would be used to further optimize account control in the future.

Considering the importance of providing optimum protection for its research and product innovation programs, data security for these programs was also a top-priority issue for Takeda.

“The SAST SUITE has given us the perfect solution for our global SAP authorization management while also providing us with permanent vulnerability monitoring for our systems. Thanks to the highly competent and motivated support provided by the AKQUINET team, we completed the project on time, in budget and at the specified level of quality.”

MANFRED MEIER,
Global Head of SAP Center of Excellence
Takeda AG

Project implementation: Takeda decided to deploy the SAST SUITE from AKQUINET. While performance was a key issue, Takeda also chose the tool because of its excellent usability, clearly structured SAST SUITE modules and superior cost-effectiveness. Before solution rollout, AKQUINET performed a full analysis of the pharmaceutical company's authorization assignment process. This was then optimized and redesigned to accommodate Takeda's individual requirements.

Just two months later, the GRC software and user access management system now provides Takeda with a comprehensive workflow that models and simplifies all of its processes.

Under the hood, the new system carries out authorization and SoD analysis, manages user roles and rights with full auditability, and performs rights checking for superusers and other types of privileged accounts. Potential security holes and risks are identified, evaluated and forwarded as reports to the relevant business department. One special feature of the Takeda project is that the SAST SUITE is also deployed in Chinese.

Project outcome: Since the GRC tool rollout, multiple audits have been performed that confirm the level of security and quality the SAST SUITE provides for the SAP systems. In addition, automated risk management has meant that the number of high- and medium-critical SoD (segregation of duties) conflicts has been cut by around two-thirds. As Takeda continues the global expansion of the GRC tool coverage, one of the next regions scheduled for the SAST SUITE deployment is the company's home country of Japan.

⊕ Benefits for Takeda:

- Replaces a complex, Winword-based legacy authorization assignment process
- Setup of transparent and secure SAP user management in just two months
- Automated role conflict and risk reporting
- Significant reduction in critical SoD conflicts
- Optimum protection of Takeda data and intellectual property



✓ At a glance:

- Hardening and permanent SAP security solution for 50 countries
- Audit-compliant authorization and SoD analyses for around 4,000 users
- High-performance authorization management
- High acceptance driven by superb usability
- Deployment of Chinese language version



Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Ltd. is a global pharmaceutical company headquartered in Tokyo/Japan, with a history of more than 200 years of success. Takeda's mission is to make a contribution to better health and a brighter future for people all over the world with the help of its pioneering and patient-driven medical innovations. As the largest pharmaceutical company in Japan, the Takeda Group employs approximately 30,000 people worldwide at over 300 subsidiaries and holding companies.

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