Stopping Ignition privilege escalation instantly with Security Auditor

Plantformance · Cross-industry

Users with developer rights could make themselves Ignition gateway administrators. Plantformance replaced periodic script checks with the Security Auditor module, which detects escalation on the fly and responds automatically.

THE PROBLEM

On a standard Ignition gateway, it was not very hard for a user with developer rights to escalate privileges and make themselves an administrator. On gateways that Plantformance operates for its clients, that is a real risk. An unapproved administrator can change security settings, users, and projects without anyone noticing. Plantformance needed a way to catch every escalation as it happened, not by chance.

HOW WE DID IT

Plantformance first rolled out a periodic scripted check worldwide. It flagged any administrator not listed as an approved administrator in Plantformance's central master-data repository. That check was later replaced by an Ignition module, Security Auditor. Among other capabilities, it detects escalation instantly and on the fly, then responds automatically: disabling the account, deleting it, or removing administrator rights. Security Auditor is now available for sale. An emergency ticket goes out to the client at the same moment.

BEFORE

Every so often, a Plantformance employee would happen to find that a client employee had made themselves an administrator. The account was then disabled and reported to the client.

AFTER

Detection and response are instant, and an emergency ticket notifies the client.

RESULTS

- It is now impossible to escalate user privilege to admin in Plantformance operated gateways.
- Instant detection replaces chance discovery
- Automated response: disable account, delete account, or remove administrator rights
- Emergency ticket raised automatically for the client
- Security Auditor is available as a commercial module

Plantformance products and services: Security Auditor, FactoryBrain

PLANT FORMANCE

NEXT STEP

Planning a project like this?

Talk to an Ignition engineer about your sites, timeline and architecture. We will tell you honestly what it takes.

Contact Plantformance

Read this case online and see more Ignition projects: plantformance.com/case-studies/security-auditor-privilege-escalation · all case studies

Plantformance is an Inductive Automation Alliance Partner that helps enterprises deploy, secure, and scale Ignition across sites through plug-and-play modules, turnkey zero-maintenance HMI hardware, and 24/7 managed infrastructure.

plantformance.com
info@plantformance.com
Ennetbaden, Switzerland