

A secure future for Seyfarth Shaw

US | Legal | 2,000 endpoints

Customer story

- Too many users with admin rights
- Needed to meet compliance and client security requirements
- Sought a simple, clean and effective solution for removing admin rights
- Avecto Defendpoint software rolled out using Quick Start configuration
- All users now secure, compliant and productive

About Seyfarth Shaw LLP

Seyfarth Shaw LLP is an international law firm with offices in 14 cities across the globe. With a team of more than 2,000, including 900 attorneys, Seyfarth Shaw is recognized as one of America's leading and most innovative law firms.

Seyfarth Shaw's journey

When Seyfarth Shaw rolled out Windows 7 in 2012, it had limited control and visibility of admin rights. Despite introducing anti-virus software and group policy settings, against a backdrop of increased cyber threats and increased client scrutiny, the firm was concerned about security risk.

Seyfarth needed a solution to easily eliminate admin rights that bridged the gap between flexibility and security, to mitigate security challenges without disrupting users.



Avecto

Jim Nixon, Application Support Manager at Seyfarth Shaw explains:

“Today’s threat landscape has changed dramatically; each new day seems to bring a host of new attacks. Our clients audit us on a regular basis, not only on our security posture, but even the vendors we work with. We urgently needed to find a way to bridge this culture of access and availability to one of security and productivity.”

“We wanted a solution that was simple and clean, and quick to implement so that we could realize the benefits quickly. We were looking for software that wasn’t over architected, and where permission management was the dominant feature. Some of the bigger players have this “we do that, too” mentality and that wasn’t what we wanted. We needed to lean on specialists with a proven history of success in similar organizations.”

Quick and simple implementation

“As part of our evaluation of the market we knew a few other legal firms had started using Avecto Defendpoint. We started a pilot and we were immediately impressed with how simple and light it was on our machines. The unique Quick Start implementation process meant it was a seamless transition to a full rollout with minimum fuss and we were able to very quickly see results.”

The rollout of Defendpoint across Seyfarth Shaw tied in with firm’s migration to Windows 10, as Nixon continues:

“The Windows 10 initiative was brought in not so much because we wanted to be early adopters of the new OS, but because securing our clients data is our top priority. We opted to roll out the latest version of Windows and then reverse engineer the open environment to deal with the applications that people have installed from previous years. Part of the challenge of this whole project was explaining to users the

concept of the secure desktop.

Employees could relate to ‘secure’ as they knew it was keeping them safe from the threats they see every day in the news headlines. Avecto has been outstanding in making sure the education process ran smoothly to gain buy-in and adoption from our employees.”

Successful end user adoption

“Change naturally comes with questions, and the rollout of Defendpoint received some early user pushback that we were able to quickly resolve. What we’ve seen with Avecto’s software in place is a real sense of the freedom it affords both users and those managing the software. It’s allowed us to introduce software and applications that we normally would restrict and even allow some of the self-elevation features for teams that do aggressive testing. All those users have machines with Windows 10 and Defendpoint, giving them the freedom to install apps but importantly, allowing us to monitor and audit what exactly they are installing.

With Avecto’s software in place, we are confident that we can proactively mitigate threats, meet our compliance objectives and all without productivity loss. We have finally been able to strike the balance of security and flexibility, which has made the project a huge success.

“If you are looking for a solution that allows you to quickly and easily eliminate admin rights, I have no hesitation recommending Avecto Defendpoint to any organization.”

