

## Data Entitlement Review Project Brief

### Why Data Entitlement Reviews matter

Data is the heart of business, and unstructured data is the most common type of business data.

Unstructured data

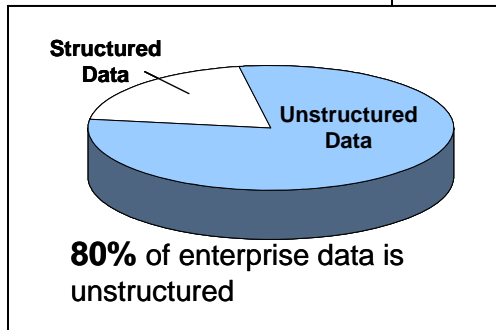
– documents, presentations, images, spreadsheets, etc. – accounts for 80% or more of all enterprise data.

Unfortunately, access to

unstructured data is “broken” for most organizations today: data is accessible by far too many people who do not have a justified business need. Entitlement Reviews help address this problem.

### Why use Varonis for Entitlement Reviews

Aligning data access entitlements to business needs is a problem that can only be solved at the source: on file servers. Varonis solutions provide a unique blend of business context and automation that enables organizations to review and fix data entitlements at the file server, and keep them fixed.



### Why Entitlement Reviews are hard

The process of reviewing, assigning, changing and especially revoking file and folder access permissions, or *entitlements*, is difficult. What makes it complex is the challenge of keeping IT systems in tune with the dynamic nature of business. While a user’s data access needs change with each new project, job role, etc., the IT infrastructure and business processes needed to keep pace with these changes is lacking in most organizations.

Consequently, access entitlements on file servers do not usually reflect the current state of the business: Just because someone has access to data today does not mean that they need it to do their job.

### Varonis DatAdvantage & DataPrivilege

Varonis DatAdvantage is the right place to start your Entitlement Review. It automatically and continually updates entitlement information, and provides visibility into data ownership. This helps you discover and reduce overly permissive access to your unstructured data. DataPrivilege puts entitlement management into the hands of data owners, ensuring access entitlements remain tied to the dynamic business needs of your organization.

Align your data entitlements with your business needs using Varonis solutions and the simple three phase process described on the next page.

### Key DatAdvantage Entitlement Review Capabilities

#### *DatAdvantage will...*



Help find data owners



Understand the business context of the data



Make recommendations



See which users should have their access revoked



Update continually



Keep pace with new data and changing user roles



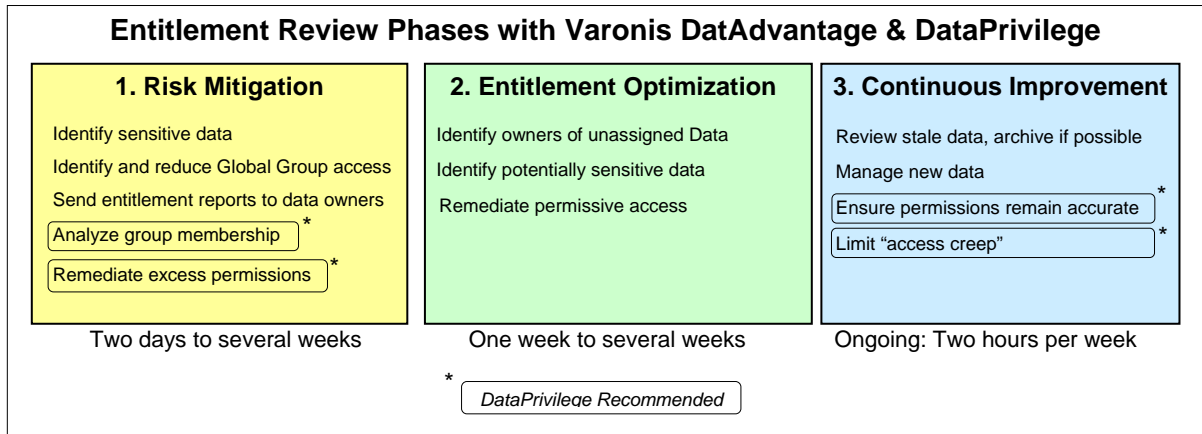
Expose unintended entitlements



Grant access only to those who need it

### A Three Phase Entitlement Review Process

The diagram below outlines the Varonis three phase Entitlement Review process. The process is summarized below and described in more detail in “Entitlement Reviews: A Practitioner’s Guide”, a companion document to this Brief also available from Varonis.



#### 1. Risk Mitigation: Fixing entitlements for business critical data

The best place to start the process of fixing entitlements is with data that you already know is sensitive or important. For many organizations, the owners of this data are known and the data is regulated and/or belongs to groups such as Finance, Human Resources, Legal, Research & Development, etc. For this sensitive data, you will want to make sure the data owners know who has access to their data today so they can review these and decide who needs access to do their jobs. DatAdvantage and DataPrivilege help with this process by delivering regularly updated reports on who has access, and DatAdvantage adds to this with recommendations about who doesn’t really need access.

#### 2. Entitlement Optimization: Identifying owners for unassigned data

Next we look beyond the data you know to be sensitive, and consider the vast majority of data in your organization: data without known owners or business context. DatAdvantage helps you identify owners and understand the business context of this data. This will, in turn, enable you to decide if some of this data is in fact sensitive. For example, if one of the sensitive data sets in Phase 1 was Finance data, you’ll now be able to see other data sets the Finance group accesses frequently – indicating that this data too may be sensitive. Once you have identified owners for all these previously unassigned data sets, and any potentially sensitive data, you will work with data owners, as you did in Phase 1, to reduce access entitlements to appropriate levels for this data as well.

#### 3. Continuous Improvement: Establishing ongoing procedures

The third phase establishes practices to keep your data entitlements aligned with your business objectives. The first step is to use DatAdvantage to identify and archive data that is no longer in use, so that you can reduce the risk of misuse or theft, and also reduce storage costs. To keep entitlements aligned with business needs, the best ongoing process is to use DataPrivilege. With DataPrivilege, the decision about who gets access to data is in the hands of the data owners. DataPrivilege also produces a detailed log of entitlement decisions which can be reviewed by IT staff and used for auditing purposes. Along with DataPrivilege, DatAdvantage recommendations and reports can be reviewed by data owners, as in Phase 1 and 2, to ensure entitlement remain aligned.

#### Conclusion

Using Varonis DatAdvantage and DataPrivilege will dramatically streamline your Entitlement Reviews by automatically and continually updating entitlement information, providing visibility into data ownership, and ensuring access entitlements remain tied to your organization’s dynamic business needs.