

# DATABASE

## TRENDS AND APPLICATIONS

Solutions for the Information Project Team • [www.dbta.com](http://www.dbta.com)

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## Ambeo Delivers Proven Data Access Auditing Solution

Since 1997, Ambeo's technology has provided performance management, data usage tracking, data privacy auditing and monitoring to Fortune 1000 companies with some of the largest database environments in the world. In today's environment, with the need to comply with an ever-increasing array of governmental regulations as well as heightened concerns with data piracy, Ambeo's data access auditing solutions play a key role in an enterprise's information security infrastructure. Database Trends and Applications talked with company president and chief technology officer Ken Richardson.

### **DBTA: What exactly does Ambeo offer?**

Richardson: We have an easy to use solution that records everything that is going on in your databases, with low or zero overhead. We offer data access auditing that lets you know who is looking at the data in the database and when, and what they are doing with it. We have a software-only solution that is extremely low overhead, and a NetServer appliance that offers "True Zero Overhead."

### **DBTA: Why do companies need database access auditing?**

Richardson: One key reason is to meet governmental regulations, and another big need is to prevent data piracy. Government regulations require companies to have a better audit trail for their databases. It's important to know who changed what data with what program from what place in the network.

### **DBTA: How do you guard against data piracy?**

Richardson: Most data piracy occurs from within, so neither firewalls nor passwords can stop it. But we can often reveal data piracy while it is happening. We can issue real-time alerts based on policy thresholds. So if somebody is using a VPN connection or

the wrong program, or if they are accessing data at a strange time or taking a lot of data from a specific table, we can issue an alert. We can also generate reports for use in compliance and IT audits.

### **DBTA: Your approach does not require turning on database logging. Why is that important?**

Richardson: Database logging presents numerous technical and managerial headaches. There is a lot of overhead associated with data logging. Logs have to be managed and purged and kept from filling the disk. And database logs can be manipulated by database personnel, destroying their integrity. Separation of duties is a key part of compliance.

### **DBTA: If you don't use database logging, how does the technology work?**

Richardson: We listen to the client-server traffic, even for local clients. We do this with very low overhead in software, or zero overhead with our easy-to-use appliance.

### **DBTA: Which databases do you work with?**

Richardson: We work with all the major databases - Oracle, DB2 UDB, Informix, Teradata, Sybase ASE and Sybase IQ, and Microsoft SQL Server. Nobody else supports such a broad range of databases. We provide a single, powerful unified architecture for all of your databases that replaces a complex hodge-podge of incompatible solutions.

### **DBTA: Do you specialize in any specific vertical markets?**

Richardson: We are really a horizontal solution. We can be found in health care, financial, telecom, retail, transportation, energy, manufacturing, state governments and other industries. We are very scalable and

designed to work in large environments. That is why we are used by organizations with some of the largest databases in the world.

### **DBTA: Are you only geared to large companies?**

Richardson: Almost any company - if you have multiple databases, or compliance and privacy concerns, or need to protect valuable data - we are the appropriate solution.

### **DBTA: You have been at this for a long time.**

Richardson: We were the first to track database activity in this way. Our solution has been in the market since 1997 and that eight-year track record has produced an industrial-strength solution.

### **DBTA: What does your product roadmap look like?**

Richardson: We recently released Version 3.1. It added new features geared towards privacy and compliance. We plan on continuing development in those areas. We are the only company to address data privacy, compliance and performance solutions in a single, powerful architecture.

### **DBTA: Many enterprises truly are recognizing the need for this kind of solution.**

Richardson: They come to us already knowing what they need. Data access auditing was once just good to have; now everyone must have it.

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