

Certifications

Automate User Access Reviews & Certifications with Pathlock

Introduction

As your employees change roles, move to other departments, or leave the company, it's crucial to routinely recertify user access to mitigate risk. Pathlock's Certifications module automates user access reviews so organizations can recertify access accurately and quickly. The module simplifies and streamlines the review process for user, role, and risk access. It achieves this by consolidating access assignments across the application landscape, including relevant and valuable contextual information, and automating workflows that route reviews for approval.



The Challenges of Manual Access Recertification

Manually recertifying user access is a time-consuming and error-prone process, especially when dealing with multiple siloed campaigns across various applications. Despite this, security administrators are still required to keep track of and prompt supervisors responsible for access recertifications, provide them with necessary data, ensure their compliance with recertification requirements, and update the system with any user account changes requested by reviewers.

Recertification can be a burden on supervisors who may lack the necessary contextual information to make informed decisions, such as usage data, access risk, last login date, and user information like department and title. Additionally, the process of recertification can also be taxing on IT staff. They must compile all access assignments and manage the recertification process, which involves breaking out the access by manager, sending out, retrieving, and recompiling files, keeping a trail of emails and shared files for auditing purposes, reviewing and ensuring the completion of returned files, and manually revoking access. Recertification can also be an unwelcome distraction for role owners, auditors, and supervisors.

Improve Productivity, Maintain Compliance, and Reduce Complexity

Pathlock's Certifications module streamlines the process of reviewing application access, which is often mandated quarterly by regulators and auditors. It automates data collection, review distribution, and result tracking, empowering reviewers to make informed decisions on whether to approve or revoke access. The module also provides an audit trail to demonstrate that recertifications have been performed.



Business Benefits

Eliminate Human Error and Delays:

Access certification campaigns are managed through a centralized portal with a clear and coherent workflow that covers one to many systems. Both campaign managers and supervisors can access the portal to review access, and they are provided with enriched data to facilitate good decisions. If a supervisor requests an access change, Pathlock automatically makes the changes, eliminating potential gaps where human error may interfere with or delay the recertification process.

Scale Back Complexity:

Pathlock's Certifications module simplifies the access review process by incorporating historical usage data. This allows role owners and supervisors to easily identify which roles a user has accessed, how much access they have exercised for each role, and any changes in access since the previous review of SoD risk information. This makes it easier and quicker for role owners and supervisors to complete their reviews and eliminates much of the complexity associated with the process.

Reduce Recertification Time:

Efficient coordination of recertification campaigns can be achieved through the use of automated email workflows, alerts, and time-based escalation rules. Role owners and supervisors can receive detailed instructions or follow-up prompts in a timely manner through these automated processes. Security administrators can easily identify which supervisors are attending to their duties and who needs additional help. These capabilities significantly reduce the time required to manage and complete recertification projects. Additionally, dashboard tools are available to provide easy tracking of completion statistics.

Module Features and Functions



Scalable, Cloud-based Architecture

Pathlock's Certifications module is built to handle the millions of roles an organization may have across its application landscape. Campaign managers can scale user access reviews across multiple applications and centralize the entire process with Pathlock.



Web-based Front End

Pathlock's web-based user interface makes it easy for role owners, supervisors, and administrators to complete access reviews and recertify or revoke access from their desktop or mobile device.



Detailed Campaign Segmentation

Recertification campaigns can be segmented by various attributes (i.e., role, dept, geo, SoD risks) so that high-risk user groups can be properly controlled with more frequent reviews, while the rest of the low-risk user base is reviewed on an annual basis.



Simultaneous, Cross-Application Reviews

Multi-system access reviews can be performed simultaneously (e.g., three instances of SAP that might have the same user with different accounts), as well as the ability to do reviews by individual systems (reviews are done by one system at a time). With cross-app functionality, reviewers can see all the different user accesses across business applications like SAP, Salesforce, and Oracle EBS and base decisions on a holistic view of the user's access.



Template Versioning & Optimization

Pathlock's Certifications module provides the ability to create version-controlled campaign templates that can be reused and, along with insights into response rate trends over time, supports the optimization of repeatable processes.



Campaign Configuration

Pathlock allows for the scheduling of campaigns to automatically run at the end of a defined period or to be created as one-off instances for specific reviews. Additionally, Pathlock supports hybrid campaigns that involve both managers and risk/role owners in the review process. Each campaign has options that enable reviewers to mass approve/revoke access, as well as provide control over the automated corrective actions. For example, administrators can choose to lock accounts, deprovision them immediately when a reviewer submits de-certification, or deprovision them if the campaign ends and the reviewer did not recertify.



GRC Functional Reviews

In addition to standard recertifications, Pathlock's Certifications module addresses the specific review requirements for elevated access challenges faced by those using Elevated Access Management (EAM) capabilities. You can apply periodic recertification campaigns can also be applied to meet the review requirements of compensating control or mitigation assignments.



Automated Decertification

Inactive users can be automatically decertified if they have not accessed a system for a predefined period and will be excluded from recertification campaigns. This auto-lock feature is customizable based on the level of risk, and managers can still determine whether or not to include inactive users in campaigns.



Least Privilege Recommendations

Pathlock's Certifications module includes a Recommendation Engine to simplify corrective actions aligned with least privilege. If a reviewer wants to rectify a user with unused access, Pathlock automatically determines best-fit alternatives based on the user's usage over a defined period. The same role replacement suggestions also apply to corrective actions taken on SoD conflicts and sensitive access. After a reviewer selects a replacement, the request triggers a compliant provisioning workflow for the appropriate stakeholders.



Customizable Email Alerts

The Certifications module provides an email reminder cadence to both IT and reviewers that is configurable for each campaign. Reminder emails are automatically sent if reviewers still need to complete a certification, and campaign managers are allowed to include all pertinent data and instructions so the reviewer can complete their assignments.



Risk & Control Owner Recertifications

Campaigns can be used to recertify mitigations for a given risk or role – or created to recertify risk or mitigation owners. In both cases, the mitigation or owner will have their validation date extended per the corrective action policies defined in the campaign.



Usage Insights and Risk Information

Pathlock provides reviewers with detailed usage insights and risk information so they can easily determine whether access is necessary. Usage data is shown at the account, role, and entitlement level – including the last date and frequency of role usage shown next to the user being reviewed.



One-Click Access Revocation

Role owners and supervisors can remove specific user access with one click. This eliminates the need to email a request to a member of the IT team. Changes are automatically documented as part of the role recertification project, ensuring an easy-to-follow audit trail.



Campaign Management & Reporting

Campaign managers can easily keep track of progress with status reports and dashboards showing completion percentage, which access reviews have taken place, which still need to be completed, and which supervisor is responsible for each review. Reviewers have their own dashboard with guided navigation and alerts for any outstanding campaigns or recertifications they need to complete.



Audit Ready

Pathlock's Certifications module provides a single place to review findings and corrective actions. Notes can be logged at the campaign and periodic audit levels, and auditors can also confirm all corrective actions were completed following the campaign. Additionally, an SoD check provides the ability to ensure no reviewer has certified their own access.

Unlock Enhanced Role Management with Pathlock

With Certifications, enterprises can significantly reduce their recertification costs by simplifying the process, giving security administrators, role owners, and supervisors the information they need to efficiently complete access reviews and automate support for audits.



Take Action: Elevate your organization's security and compliance. Request a Pathlock demo today!

REQUEST DEMO

A Complete Application Access Governance Product

Access Risk Analysis

Identify role conflicts and manage separation of duties (SoD) and sensitive access risks for all of your critical business applications

Compliant Provisioning

Onboard, manage, and remove user access efficiently to maintain regulatory compliance

Certifications

Reduce the effort - and cost - needed to manage access reviews

Elevated Access Management

Audit-ready, temporary, time-bound privileged access via automated workflows

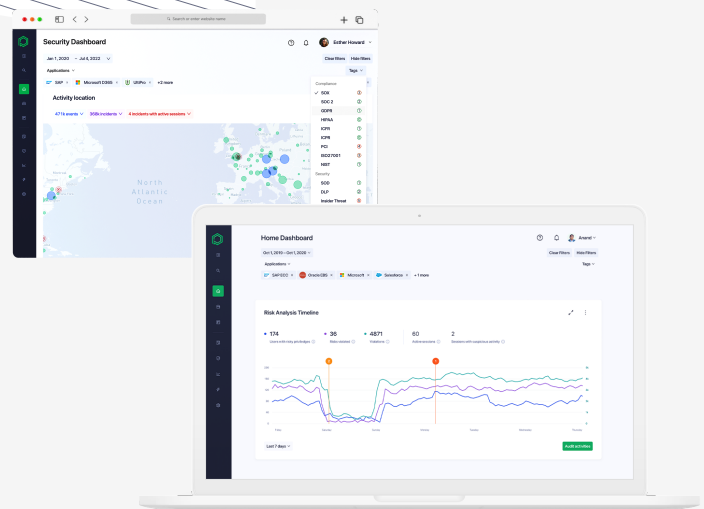
Role Management

Automate the manual efforts required to design, update, and maintain roles

About pathlock

Pathlock Cloud protects leading ERP systems and enterprise business applications and the critical transactions they power. Our Application Access Governance product helps companies enforce GRC controls and take action to prevent loss. Enterprises can manage all aspects of application governance in a single platform, including access risk analysis, user provisioning and temporary elevation, ongoing user access reviews, and audit preparation.

For more information, visit www.pathlock.com » or **get in touch** » with us for a demo.



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