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Forensix delivers a mixture of parameters, conditions and alerts that span many product areas and incorporate existing tools within security and workflow

Forensix for OpenAccounts *Fraud detection and prevention*

All good business software systems incorporate some level of security to protect organisations from employee abuse. Within finance systems, this is usually split between restricting and controlling access to functions such as supplier maintenance, bank accounts or supplier records. Most systems provide audit trails to allow the examination of transactions and user behaviour.

As software has grown more sophisticated, it has incorporated process controls such as workflow tools that provide extra layers of review and approval. Finally, most systems incorporate some kind of interactive alerting that can be configured to contact key users when specific events occur.

Despite this level of financial security being common place, abuse of loopholes and backdoors within certain systems is more common than many would think. This is why Advanced Business Solutions has developed an additional level of security and protection to protect our clients from unnecessary risk.

Advanced has studied patterns of behaviour in accounting and observed the emergence of new electronic frauds as computer users become more sophisticated in understanding business processes. The ability to anticipate and detect collaborative fraud, which is often far more damaging and difficult to detect, was highlighted as a key concern within the industry. For example an internal employee makes unusual arrangements with an external supplier or customer which may result in suspect credit notes, write-offs, discounts, special order conditions or one-off payments that are notoriously difficult to detect.

In response to this challenge, Forensix delivers a mixture of parameters, conditions and alerts that span many product areas and incorporate existing tools within security and workflow. The Forensix function within OpenAccounts provides a wide range of pre-defined conditions that can be quickly implemented by senior managers.

How it Works

Case in point:

Many finance professionals will recognise potential risks around the supplier bank account. A user who is permitted to access the financial data might choose to amend the bank details to a similar account number in their own name. If they made the amendment just before a payment run and changed it back straight afterwards, it could be very hard to detect amongst high volumes of transactions.

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Using one of the many pre-defined Forensix functions, the data change is instantly identified and a senior manager is warned. As the alert is integrated with the workflow engine, it can be carried through any number of management levels or trigger other events both internally and externally.

Another Forensix setting can require a senior user, other than the person running the actual payments, to approve the payment batch before any media can be created.

The functionality of Forensix can be easily expanded to meet an organisation's individual requirements as and when they identify additional conditions that cause them particular concern, making Forensix customisable to each company.

Case in point:

One function in Forensix was suggested by a user who uncovered a fraud involving the destruction of supplier credit notes. These were replaced by cashed cheques that would have been detected by Forensix due to their unusual encashment pattern.

Other unique Forensix functions around the supplier payments area include the ability to disallow unallocated payments on certain documents, to identify duplicate addresses and PO Box references and to require mandatory credit note reason codes on transactions.

Procurement Fraud

Whilst Forensix focuses on the payment process, the list also includes tracking of procurement, stock and customer conditions. As organisations roll-out eProcurement systems to reduce maverick purchasing and increase conformity, Forensix identifies first orders to new suppliers, unusual order values and places extra control into invoice matching to identify any late cost additions.

Customer billing comes under the microscope with Forensix focusing upon credit note values and reasons as well as providing scrutiny of write-offs on contract invoices.

In common with the product's open design, Forensix messages can be delivered within a choice of internet browsers, e-mail systems and mobile devices as well as within the finance package itself.

Whilst many organisations are not keen to openly discuss internal business fraud, the level of interest in Forensix suggest that many processes will be examined closely and benefit from this additional security.

About Business Solutions

Advanced Business Solutions, an Advanced Computer Software Group plc company, provides leading integrated business applications and services that enable public, private and third sector organisations to retain control, improve visibility and gain efficiencies whilst continually improving corporate performance. It's award-winning software systems comprise core financial management, procurement, human resource and payroll systems, integrated with a range of collaborative, document management and business intelligence solutions. It also provides managed and bureau service options.

Advanced Computer Software Group plc is the UK's leading supplier of software and IT services to the health, care and commercial sectors. It comprises 3 main divisions and has 7000 customers and 800 staff worldwide.

For more information

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