



# NNT NERC CIP COMPLIANCE CASE STUDY

## KEY FACTS - NERC CIP

- ▶ NERC is the North American Electric Reliability Corporation
- ▶ NERC is the body responsible for defining and enforcing operational standards guaranteeing reliable electric services across the US and Canada
- ▶ Since 2007, NERC have been granted the legal authority in the US to enforce reliability standards with all owners, operators and users of the bulk power system
- ▶ NERC CIP specifically covers the Critical Infrastructure Protection program defining standards of governance in IT Security and IT management best practises
- ▶ Compliance with NERC CIP will become mandatory during 2009/10 with initial audits beginning as early as June 2009
- ▶ NNT Change Tracker™ audits for security vulnerabilities in all servers, workstations and network devices, identifying all configuration setting changes required to harden devices for compliance with NERC CIP

## LEADING US ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION CO-OPERATIVE RELIES ON NEW NET TECHNOLOGIES CHANGE TRACKER™ TO AUDIT SERVERS, WORKSTATIONS AND NETWORK DEVICES FOR NERC CIP COMPLIANCE

Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative (GVEC) is a member-owned electric distribution cooperative serving the South Central region of Texas. Since 1939, GVEC has been providing quality, reliable electric service at the lowest reasonable cost and now serves nearly 65,000 accounts in 13 counties.

GVEC have commissioned NNT Change Tracker™ to provide control of virtual and physical IT configurations, combining configuration assessment with change auditing in a single software solution. Configuration policies are proactively assessed and validated against internal baseline and compliance standards such as NERC CIP, the cyber security standard for Electric providers.

*"We chose NNT Change Tracker™ based on a combination of features and price"* said Chris Murphy - Infrastructure Manager at GVEC.

Chris went on to say *"The NNT software integrates seamlessly with our existing Network Management system, which meant we could continue to use our preferred discovery and 'Event Management' solution in conjunction with NNT's change, configuration and audit features."*

*"Like most Electric providers we are bound to adhere to compliance regulations such as NERC CIP. The NNT solution provides us all we need to keep our auditors happy but more importantly we are seeing terrific value in having control of the configurations of our computing devices"*

Once the IT team gets configurations into a known, good state, NNT's change tracking and auditing helps them to maintain it, detecting and alerting IT to improper change. Web based reporting provides immediate visual feedback on IT infrastructure security, supports drilldown to change details, assists in remediation efforts and provides evidence for internal and external audit.

Analysts estimate that as much as 80% of unplanned workload and downtime comes as a result of unplanned change to configurable items. A formalized Change Management Approval process goes some way to improving the situation but any process is always reliant on people following the rules. Change Tracker™ fixes this by auditing and reporting all changes.

The New Net Technologies (NNT) Change Tracker™ suite is a comprehensive, yet inexpensive, solution designed to track, audit and manage the security and configured state of an entire infrastructure including servers, PC's and network devices. In addition, NNT Change Tracker™ allows IT staff to establish a proper Change Management process and report all changes, clearly identifying approved versus unapproved changes made.

In the event of a problem arising, simply selecting the impacted group or time frame and hitting the 'What's changed?' button produces a report of all changes across the infrastructure (PC's, network devices, servers and VMs) since it was last identified as working correctly. The premise is simple: find the unapproved changes and identify the root cause of the problem and so quickly isolate the problem and retain normal working conditions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REQUEST AN EVALUATION OF NNT SOFTWARE VISIT

[www.nntws.com](http://www.nntws.com)

## About NNT

NNT build the world's best solutions for security and compliance auditing, tracking and managing change, protecting users, maintaining system performance and ensuring availability across the entire enterprise. Understanding and managing the day to day changes within your environment is critical to establishing and maintaining secure and reliable services. NNT solutions are affordable and easy to use.

NNT help you establish and maintain a 'known and compliant' state for your IT systems. Including: PC, Network, Software, Host Machine and Database.

