Financial Crime Tuning Made Easy

The Challenge

While a necessary part of any financial crime program, tuning can be a cumbersome and time-consuming process. NICE Actimize has worked to address these challenges in our latest release of our AML Suspicious Activity Monitoring (SAM) solution with the addition of a simulation capability.

Rule simulation and tuning is a very complex process where a client tunes their AML rules so they are more accurate and achieve the desired results out of detection. In general, there are three iterations of a tuning activity performed before achieving the desired result.

Running the detection process for a month ideally takes around 14 days, unless issues are encountered while running these processes. Unfortunately if you run into issues, the process will need to be re-started once they are solved—often adding 18-20 more days to the timescale.

This process is not only time-consuming but also requires continuous manual intervention, making it a complex and effort hungry exercise. Three iterations of tuning activity can easily stretch to around four long months of work.

Often while tuning, executing the detection process that generates the alerts and the subsequent sharing of this data with BAs for further analysis gives the impression that we need alert data for a full month to complete this analysis.

But it's not the alert data that is analyzed by the BAs. Instead, it's more important to understand the underlying issues and transactions related to the triggered rules. Accordingly, performing alert distribution in a tuning activity is not necessary.

The Solution

The NICE Actimize X-ccelerate Consulting Practice and Managed Services teams collaborated to simplify this process, making it faster and more effective with minimal manual intervention.

The team created a utility called the Tuning Accelerator, or X-ccelerator, which is an integral component of the X-ccelerate Consulting Practice's Tuning Optimization Service, commonly referred to as the Factory Tuning Model.

This utility simulates issues generated by the SAM detection process, but requires fewer steps and time to completion—all while extracting and outputting the transactions generating the issues. In addition, this utility can be executed against the full account/transactional data set, or against a specific rule and segment combination for a defined processing period where localized remedial action is required. This could not be achieved in the same amount of time using the traditional approach, while at the same now offering clients greater control in improving the efficacy of their systems.

The utility works directly on the profile and transactional data that is present in the database and gathers the data related to rules that are required by BAs for analysis.

The Impact

By eliminating steps of the detection process that aren't required, we can reduce execution time from 14-20 days to a mere two days for c. 10 rules. **This is more than 300 percent effective than the traditional process.**

The true benefit of the utility doesn't stop here. Now that we've simulated the issues, the details of the transactions need to be presented in a format that is conducive to both efficient and effective analysis and decision making.

Complementing the utility is the X-ccelerate Consulting Practice's consultancy support and Transactional Analysis Workbook, which provides the analytical framework where transactional extracts are presented to business stakeholders. This workbook is a project-specific document tailored to the client's analytical needs and operational processes.

Now, we can reduce analysis time from 1-2 days per rule to 0.25 days per rule.

On average, this is an efficiency gain of more than 500 percent per rule.

In the traditional tuning process for an environment like SA SAM, execution of the detection process takes around 25-30 days to complete.

Using the NICE Actimize utility, simulating the detection process and tasks that are required for tuning activity can be completed in around three to five days depending on data volume.

This means saving up to 20-25 days based on data volume— giving you time back to focus on other business needs.

See how Managed Services can help simplify your processes today