
PixAlert Auditor FAQ

What does PixAlert Auditor do?

PixAlert Auditor is designed to detect the existence of Illicit Images within a network of targeted PC's and Servers. PixAlert Auditor will report the findings of the scan in a detailed format which provides all of the necessary information to allow for appropriate action to be taken by the organisation.

PixAlert Auditor is designed to be deployed on an organisation's IT Resources in two ways, either a targeted scan of a particular PC/Laptop or Server, or as a Network-wide scan of PCs and Servers. PixAlert Auditor conducts the scan based upon a preconfigured and customised threshold and reports upon images which exceed that threshold. These suspect images are presented to the administrator or nominated management representative in a user friendly format. The scan provides a full report on its findings, to which the administrator or nominated management representative may add additional material when building a case file. .

How does PixAlert Auditor work?

The software dynamically opens all image files, as well as other file formats such as Word, PowerPoint, E-mail (PST) and ZIP files when searching for inappropriate content on the target computers. When a suspect image is found, which transgresses a set level of sensitivity, as predefined prior to the scan being conducted, a report is generated and these images can then be categorised by the auditing staff and added to a management report. Several reports are generated automatically, providing both a summary and detailed statistics of the images found on the company's network. Concurrent scans can be run due to the multithreaded capability of PixAlert Auditor.

What file types are scanned?

PixAlert Auditor scans over 50 image formats including the most commonly used such as JPEG, GIF, BMP and PNG. It also scans Word, PowerPoint, E-mail (PST) and ZIP files

How accurate is the Image Analysis Engine?

PixAlert Auditor's Image Analysis Engine has been proven to provide results which are 95-98% accurate. The software has been tested on millions of images. The software can be customised to reflect an organisations environment which may include a configuration to ignore commonly occurring image particular to that organisation.

How quickly can it scan a network?

This depends on the number of machines conducting the scanning and the speed of the network. For example, using 3 medium specification PCs on to run PixAlert Auditor typically permits 100 machines to be fully audited during per working day.

How can it scan so many machines so quickly?

The software is multithreaded to enable scanning multiple systems simultaneously. This means that the performance of the software can be optimised. For example, if the network is busy, then PixAlert Auditor performs more scanning locally on the target PC thus allowing a greater number of computers to be scanned simultaneously.

Will the performance of the target machines be affected?

Target machines serve out files to the scanning system which is not a very CPU intensive operation. In addition, auditing computers scan many different PCs at once, so no one target machine will be overloaded. PixAlert recommends that mission critical systems be scanned outside of office hours or if possible scan a backup of the target machines' file systems.

How does the software access the content to be scanned?

For Servers, Auditor is targeted at the file shares containing the data. For Desktop systems, the software can use the existing administrative shares (c\$, d\$, etc.) or it can automatically create a secure temporary share on the target system while it is scanning. This temporary share is removed once the scan of the target desktop is completed.

How secure is the data that PixAlert Auditor gathers?

Images copied from the target PC to the scanning machine are encrypted and can only be viewed using the Auditor application. Reports generated by Auditor can be created in anonymous format, which avoids prejudice against any employee under investigation. Even the file owner can be aliased which means the reports can be circulated to a wider audience without prejudicing employees' privacy, human rights and innocence.

Can PixAlert Auditor be run on a standalone PC?

While Auditor has been designed primarily for scanning a company's network of computers, it is still possible to audit a standalone PC. Individual directories on a machine can be selected for scanning, as well as selecting shares across the network.

How are shares selected for scanning?

There are a number of ways to select shares for scanning:

- A list of target machines and network shares can be imported from a .csv file;
- Existing shares on networked machines can be selected from an explorer dialog window;
- Shares can be dynamically created on machines and automatically selected for scanning;
- The software can use Active Directory to help identify the machines to be scanned

What type of images will PixAlert Auditor detect?

Auditor will report any images deemed inappropriate based on a sensitivity level set by the person performing the scan. Three different levels are available: Low, Medium and High. Low will detect and report most inappropriate images whereas high will only report images with a very high probability of being inappropriate.

Can PixAlert Auditor scan Music files?

PixAlert Auditor scans for illicit images; it cannot scan for obscene words and phrases in MP3 or other music files. However, since copyright laws may be breached through reproducing and storing music on corporate computer assets, PixAlert Auditor has the capability to log the presence of any MP3 and other audio files on users' computers or corporate files servers for corporate auditing purposes.

Does PixAlert Auditor provide a reporting facility?

Auditor provides several reports:

- Anonymous Reports to protect employee identity;
- Summary Statistics of scan providing profile of all images on network;
- Detailed listings of all images found on the network;
- Top Ten Abusers Report. These reports can be exported into Word, Adobe Acrobat or XML file formats.

Can Scans performed on multiple machines be merged into one report?

Several scans can be performed on multiple target machines or network shares. These scans can then be copied to one scanning machine and all reviewed images can be merged to form one report. This report contains details of all scans performed on the network using information integrated seamlessly into one comprehensive report.

What is the minimum system specification for PixAlert Auditor?

Hardware Requirements

- P4 Desktop PC;
- 256MB RAM;
- 1 GB's free disk space.

Software Requirements

PixAlert Auditor software uses Version 1.1 of the Microsoft DOT NET framework.

Operating System Requirements

- MS Windows® 2000 Professional SP2;
- MS Windows® XP Professional.

Professional Services Requirements

- Secure private room for scanning
- 2 or more PCs with good network speed
- Network access logon to create shares on machines.

Assumptions

- PC's are left on over night;
- PC's are on the same LAN, otherwise PixAlert Auditor must be installed on one or more PC's connected to each remote LAN.

For other questions and enquiries please email info@pixalert.com