

Bebat Case Study

Environmentally conscious Bebat secures online application with VASCO's DIGIPASS and VACMAN Strong Authentication.

The attention for environmental problems increases worldwide. Everybody will have to contribute to keep our planet livable. In Belgium, Bebat is already doing this since 1995. Bebat (short for Belgian Batteries) is responsible for collecting and recycling batteries in Belgium. The battery manufacturers, importers and vendors, who participate in Bebat, declare monthly in an online web application the number of batteries sold. To guarantee the confidentiality of this critical business information, Bebat secures the access to its Batbase web application with VASCO's Digipass GO 3 and VACMAN Controller Strong Authentication.



BATTERIES COLLECTED - NATURE RESPECTED

During the last couple of years, the environmental issue has been receiving more and more attention. Sorting and recycling are fully promoted by government to encourage citizens to be environmentally aware. Regarding the collection and

recycling of batteries, Belgium has been a pioneer. Already in 1995 vzw Bebat was founded by 6 battery manufacturers, with the aim of collecting and recycling used accumulators and batteries. By founding Bebat, the manufactures could avoid higher environmental taxes; now they pay a lower contribution to Bebat instead.

"The participants of Bebat declare, on a monthly basis, the number of batteries sold," explains Pascal Van der Auwera, Administration Manager at Bebat. "This means that the manufacturers communicate detailed sales statistics to us. It is obvious that these manufacturers will only agree to this, when we can guarantee the total confidentiality of the numbers."

FROM LOCAL SOFTWARE TO WEB APPLICATION

Originally, the Bebat participants entered their numbers via software that was locally installed on their PC, given the fact that at that time most of them didn't have a fast Internet connection. In a next step, the data were sent to Bebat through email. This way of working caused a lot of problems and a heavy workload for the helpdesk. This situation stimulated Bebat to develop a web application called Batbase, in co-operation with Necho.

"Because of the evolution of the Internet, the Bebat participants were also changing to faster Internet connections", said Bruno Abé of integrator Necho Europe. "That way we could replace the local software by a web application which allows the participants to declare their sales statistics online. But there was still the issue of how we could secure the online declaration procedure to guarantee the necessary confidentiality."

The contract that the participants sign with Bebat includes a section stating that Bebat guarantees the confidentiality of the participant's data. It became a challenge for Bebat to implement a security solution that secured the sales statistics and was also user friendly for the participants.

THE CHOICE FOR VASCO

Bebat considered a number of solutions, from security keys on disks to connected card readers. But time after time those systems weren't suited to the needs of Bebat: they weren't flexible and the risk of installation problems was too big.

IT-partner Necho consulted Kappa Data, distributor of among others VASCO security solutions.

"Considering the nature of the Bebat project Kappa Data suggested to Necho to implement VACMAN Controller in the application itself. The implementation went smoothly and on short term the strong authentication was up and running. Bebat is the ideal example of the added value of strong authentication and proves also that it's implementation can go swiftly," says Patrick Casteels, managing director of Kappa Data.

"When I discovered VASCO's DIGIPASS and VACMAN Controller strong authentication solution, I quickly saw the advantages. It is a user friendly solution of a company with an impressive track record in the financial sector," explains Bruno Abé. "I immediately advised Bebat to opt for DIGIPASS GO 3 in the company colors and with the Bebat logo. That way the Digipasses will be easily recognized and they can serve as a marketing tool."

With DIGIPASS GO 3 strong authentication, the DIGIPASS authentication software is installed on a VASCO hardware platform, namely the physical DIGIPASS. With a touch of a button, the software generates a unique dynamic password that can only be used once to login. For the next login, a new password has to be generated by DIGIPASS GO 3, as every password expires after 36 seconds. So stealing passwords becomes useless for criminals, as every login requires a new unique password.



BEBAT DIGIPASS GO 3

USER FRIENDLINESS VERY IMPORTANT

VASCO's VACMAN Controller is the core authentication platform that supports more than 50 forms of DIGIPASS client authentication devices. VACMAN Controller treats every login application and only allows authorized users to access the application. In that way Bebat knows with certainty who entered the sales numbers on Batbase.

"At Bebat we support the KISS-principle: Keep It Simple and Stupid. We don't want to burden our clients with long login procedures, therefore DIGIPASS GO 3 was the ideal solution for us," explains Pascal Van der Auwera. "With a push on the green button of the Bebat DIGIPASS, our clients generate a dynamic password that grants them - together with their participation number - access to myBatbase. Simple, but very secure."

From January 2007 on, Bebat gave its participants the choice between declaring their sales numbers with the local software or via the web application with DIGIPASS. Six months later already 600 of the 1000 participants changed to the web application, exceeding Bebat's expectations.

"In six months time, there were only two problems reported, which we could solve by providing the participants with a new DIGIPASS," Bruno Abé adds. "We can call it a success!"

PROBLEM

Battery manufacturers declare their sales statistics in the Batbase web application of Bebat. Bebat needs to thoroughly secure the access to this web application to avoid competitors or other third parties getting access to this confidential sales numbers.

CHALLENGE

Bebat needed a solution that offered high level security, but was still user friendly.



SOLUTION

Bebat found in VASCO's DIGIPASS and VACMAN Controller Strong Authentication the security solution that is suited to its needs.

The Bebat DIGIPASS GO 3 is easy to use, but still offers a high security level. The VACMAN Controller software is easy to install and guarantees that only authorized users can access the application.

VASCO hasn't only got environmentally aware customers, but the company itself also cares for the environment. VASCO declares the batteries of its hardware Digipasses at Bebat. In addition, VASCO doesn't use any harmful materials or substances for the production of its hardware Digipasses and all products comply with the RoHS rules. Furthermore VASCO packs its products in biologically degradable paper/cardboard shells and not in Styrofoam.

About Bebat

BEBAT vzw (Fonds Ophaling Batterijen) was founded on August 21st 1995 as a consequence of the Belgian law of 16.7.93 regarding the environment taxes and the amendment to the law of March 7th 1996. BEBAT vzw is active since January 1st 1996 with the objective of organizing the collection management and useful recycling of used batteries in Belgium. Since 2005 Bebat also collects and recycles flashlights. Bebat is supervised by the Belgian federal and the 3 regional authorities.

About Necho

Necho Europe NV is a developer and integrator with a specialization in financial and administrative subsystems, including management and processing of expense notes, budgets and cash flow applications, risk management solutions and invoicing systems. Necho is active since 2002 on the BeNeLux market.

About Kappa Data

Kappa Data was founded in 1998 by Patrick Casteels and Koen Martens and is located in De Pinte (Belgium). Kappa Data is official distributor of a complete range of security and network solutions focusing on resellers who are mainly active in the midsize and enterprise segment. Currently Kappa Data distributes Juniper Networks, Trend Micro, Pineapp, Netasq, Panda Software, Lancom Systems, Allied Telesyn, D-Link, Netopia, IMC Networks, Switchcom, VASCO and Swyx.

About VASCO

VASCO is the number one supplier of strong authentication and e-signature solutions and services. VASCO has established itself as the world's leading software company specialized in Internet Security, with a customer base in the financial sector, enterprise security, e-commerce and e-government.

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