

Greenpartners secures access to its extranet and local network with VASCO's DIGIPASS technology and IDENTIKEY Server software

Greenpartners is a cooperative of vegetable growers who deliver fresh vegetables to the wholesale distribution and export companies in Belgium and neighboring countries. Through Greenpartners' extranet the affiliated growers are able to consult invoices and exchange information. To access its local network and to secure its extranet, the cooperative chose VASCO's DIGIPASS technology combined with IDENTIKEY Server software.



The growers of Greenpartners grow and package the vegetables according to the wishes of customers and consumers.

The vegetables are delivered and stored for cooling at Greenpartners or are directly delivered to the customer. The close contact between client and producer provides a chain reduction. The pricing system used by Greenpartners – which is based on the cost for the individual producer – benefits the quality of the product. Incidentally, all of Greenpartners' products are grown in an organic way or by using environmentally friendly techniques.

AUTHENTICATION IS A MUST FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

As Greenpartners is a cooperative representing around seventy members, the need arised for a mutual information exchange platform. The company consequently developed - in collaboration with its IT partner 4 Business Software - an extranet where each producer can look up market prices, register his supply and fill in his area survey. Eventually, producers will also be able to view invoices and receipts.

To ensure that only authorized persons can consult this confidential information, Greenpartners was looking for a security solution where users must authenticate themselves before they can log-on to the web portal. Greenpartners presented the problem to 4 Business software, an SME offering IT solutions for auction-marts, wholesalers and import & export companies in the sector of fresh vegetables, fruits, flowers and fish.

ACCESS TO EXTRANET ANYTIME AND ANYWHERE WITH DIGIPASS

At first, Greenpartners wanted to make use of the Belgian eID card allowing its members to identify themselves by using their electronic identity card. In practice, this proved not feasible because it requires specific software to be installed on the PC of the end- user. The solution was not user-friendly and quite expensive. Moreover, it would entail that the end-user would be able to access the extranet from only one PC severely reducing flexibility as well.

4 Business Software suggested VASCO's DIGIPASS solution to Greenpartners.

DIGIPASS technology allows users to log-on to the extranet from any PC as no specific software needs to be downloaded or installed.

«With DIGIPASS we are certain that those who consult and enter the information, are effectively those to which the information may be shown,» says Lars Croket, Executive Assistant at Greenpartners. «Greenpartners' extranet contains a lot of confidential information that we wanted to protect adequately. With DIGIPASS the confidentiality of our information is guaranteed. Moreover, it is a very user-friendly, ready-made solution with a low threshold. Our members can use their DIGIPASS immediately without first needing to install special software or reading complicated manuals.»

DYNAMIC PASSWORDS ENSURE SECURE ACCESSE

Affiliated growers receive a personalized DIGIPASS GO 6 with which they can securely log-on to Greenpartners' extranet. DIGIPASS generates one-time dynamic passwords by one simple touch on the button. With this dynamic password and their user name, members can access the extranet from any PC with an internet connection. The password is valid for a limited amount of time before it automatically expires and can only be used once. Greenpartners is hence assured that only authorized people, equipped with a DIGIPASS, can access and fill in the confidential information on the extranet.



DIGIPASS AUTHENTICATION FOR WINDOWS LOGON

In order to protect the access to its local network, Greenpartners implemented, together with 4 Business Software, the "DIGIPASS Authentication for Window Logon" solution. DIGIPASS Authentication for Window Logon is an extension of IDENTIKEY, VASCO's authentication server which was installed at Greenpartners. The DIGIPASS solution enables Greenpartners to secure access to its local network in a cost-efficient way.

DIGIPASS Authentication for Window Logon is a software module that is installed on the workstation of the end-user. It replaces the original login window with a version whereby the log-on credentials are sent to the IDENTIKEY server to be verified.

When the authentication request is positively validated, the original static password is sent back to the desktop and used to log-on to the server. The communication between the desktop logon module and IDENTIKEY is done over a security certificate-based SSL connection.

“With DIGIPASS technology and IDENTIKEY we were able to efficiently secure two different applications for two different user-groups”, Lars states. “The technology is very user-friendly for the end-user as well as for the IT administrator ensuring user acceptance for both our employees and our affiliated members.”

Objective

Secure access to the extranet ensuring that only affiliated growers can consult the confidential information. Additionally, access for internal employees to the server must also be adequately be secured.

Challenge

Greenpartners was looking for a user-friendly and ready-made solution with a high level of security that could secure both server and extranet.

Solution

4 Business Software advised Greenpartners to deploy DIGIPASS GO 6 to secure access to its extranet portal. DIGIPASS Authentication for Windows Logon was the product of choice to secure access to Greenpartners’ server. Both solutions seamlessly work together with the same authentication server: IDENTIKEY.



About Greenpartners



Greenpartners delivers fresh vegetables to the wholesale distribution and export companies in Belgium and neighboring countries. The cooperative of vegetable growers grows and packages the vegetables according to the wishes of customers and consumers. Greenpartners’ products are grown in an organic way or by using environmentally friendly techniques. Today Greenpartners counts about seventy producers with a turnover of €46 million and an area of 460 hectares. More and more growers choose Greenpartners that strives to offer growers more security and stability. www.greenpartners.be

About 4 Business Software



4 Business Software, situated in Duffel is an innovative SME creating custom software following the wishes and needs of the client. In Belgium, 4 Business software is the partner for auction-marts, wholesalers, importers and exporters in the sector of fresh food, vegetables, fruit, flowers and fish.

4Business Software distinguishes itself from traditional software companies by its unique pairing of knowledge in hardware and software and the knowledge of the sector in which it is active. This strategy leads to 4 Business Software not simply installing systems, but it being more of a partner for all of its clients who thinks along with them in their company processes and fluidly translates new technologies into practical and user friendly applications. www.4bs.be

About VASCO

VASCO is a leading supplier of strong authentication and e-signature solutions and services specializing in Internet Security applications and transactions. VASCO has positioned itself as a global software company for Internet Security and designs, develops, markets and supports patented DIGIPASS®, DIGIPASS PLUS®, VACMAN®, IDENTIKEY® and aXsGUARD® authentication products. VASCO’s prime markets are the financial sector, enterprise security, e-commerce and e-government.

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