

Sollentuna Kommun secures 'paperless office' with DIGIPASS and VACMAN Middleware

Sollentuna Kommun is a municipality in Uppland province in East Central Sweden. Located 15 km northwest from Stockholm, Sollentuna is made up of 8 districts and currently has 60,500 inhabitants.

The municipality already implemented DIGIPASS® to secure its VPN and Citrix applications. When looking for a security solution to secure access to their e-invoicing application without having to invest in additional infrastructure, VASCO was again their preferred vendor.

PAPERLESS ACCOUNTING

Sollentuna was already familiar with VASCO's strong authentication solutions. To avoid unauthorized users exploiting Sollentuna's organizational network, VASCO's DIGIPASS technology together with VACMAN® Middleware for RADIUS was implemented providing users secure (remote) access to the Citrix applications and VPN without impacting the integrity of the computer systems and data.

In 2005 Sollentuna invested in a payment authorization system to simplify its accounting and administration process. The invoicing application centralizes all invoices from different institutions and organizations within the municipality including the fire department, day care centres, schools etc. All invoices are scanned by an outsourced company and stored in the application. Managing invoices becomes less time consuming as all documents are available online, can be reproduced at a moment's notice and document loss is eliminated. The application has a built-in work flow allowing the invoices to be sent to the authorized persons for payment approval.

Sollentuna was aware of the business critical information their e-invoicing application contained and needed a secure solution guaranteeing payment approval of invoices by authorized staff only.



DIGIPASS AND VACMAN: COMPLIANT WITH RADIUS

Sollentuna wanted a strong authentication solution that could be fully integrated into the application as well as into their existing RADIUS infrastructure. Sollentuna's IT specialist, wrote a RADIUS component according to the e-invoicing application's API which was inserted into the source code enabling integration into the municipality's RADIUS environment to be able to use one time passwords for approval of invoice payment.

The programming of this source code wasn't very difficult as Sollentuna was already familiar with RADIUS server software for its Citrix applications. Once the component was embedded into the application, integration of the application within RADIUS and VASCO's authentication software VACMAN Middleware, went very smoothly.

VACMAN Middleware for RADIUS fits seamlessly into any RADIUS environment, unaffected the performance of the RADIUS Server. The administration interface makes the process of assigning and managing DIGIPASS devices to authorized users extremely straightforward.

ONE DEVICE, ACCESS TO MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS

A lot of employees already had a DIGIPASS device to access the corporate VPN and were therefore familiar with the concept. Sollentuna only needed to deploy devices to those who didn't already possess one. "Working with VASCO meant we could avoid reissuing new passwords to hundreds of people. This saved us a lot of time and labor", says Matts Kallioniemi, System Administrator at Sollentuna Kommun. VASCO's flexible licensing system allows an easy expansion of users and therefore turned out to be a very cost efficient solution.

Because it is very intuitive to use, no training or manual was required ensuring a smooth transition to the paperless way of working. Users logon to the application with their One-Time Password which expires automatically after 32 seconds therefore effectively eliminating password vulnerabilities. Once the password is validated by the server, the user is authenticated into the Citrix Metaframe environment. Only authorized staff is able to approve the payment of e-invoices. To sign off invoices, Sollentuna's designated employees use their DIGIPASS password authorizing payment approval. This process gives the municipality assurance that no invoices will be paid without permission of the legitimate persons.

“DIGIPASS is very handy for end-users as they can access multiple applications using just one authentication device”, says Matts Kallioniemi. “In the administration Interface we can very easily define who is authorized to access the VPN and/ or invoicing application. DIGIPASS management is hence extremely user friendly.”

STRONG 2-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION AT THE LOWEST TCO

Before turning to VASCO Sollentuna worked with another provider of hardware authentication devices. However, as those devices had an average lifetime span of only three years, the solution turned out to be a very costly matter. VASCO's DIGIPASS has a average lifetime span of 7 to 10 years, which quickly convinced Sollentuna to replace all distributed devices by DIGIPASS. And because no software needs to be installed on end-users' computers, costs for integration and roll out are reduced resulting in a low total cost of ownership.

“We chose VASCO because it supports RADIUS enabling a full integration of strong authentication into our existing IT infrastructure without needing to buy additional hardware and software as the authentication platform VACMAN Middleware was already up and running”, Matts explains.

The online invoicing application allows Sollentuna's employees to structure their accountancy in a very efficient way. As all documents are securely stored online, the paperless office became a fact. Strong two-factor authentication gives Sollentuna the ease of mind that their sensitive data are

protected from unauthorized access and that invoices can be approved for payment only by those authorized to do so.

Objective

Sollentuna Kommun wanted to implement an e-invoicing application with secure authorized (remote) access.

Challenge

Sollentuna Kommun was looking for an authentication solution to secure (remote) access to the online invoicing application without having to invest in additional hard- or software which could be fully integrated into a RADIUS environment.

Solution

Sollentuna Kommun was already familiar with VASCO's DIGIPASS authentication which was implemented to secure remote access to the municipality's VPN. Integration of DIGIPASS authentication into the invoicing application went smoothly guaranteeing secure (remote) for authorized users only. VASCO's flexible licensing system allowed for a cost-efficient expansion of the amount of DIGIPASS users without the need for installing additional soft- or hardware.

SOLENTUNA KOMMUN



About Sollentuna Kommun

Sollentuna Kommun is a municipality in located in Uppland province in east central Sweden. The municipality is made up of the 8 districts Tureberg, Häggvik, Norrviken, Rotebro, Edsberg and Sjöberg and currently has more than 60 000 inhabitants.

Sollentuna goes back to the Viking era, when the waterways of the Vikings met in the area close to Edsviken. It was a strategically vital point and is now perfectly located between Stockholm and Arlanda. The beautiful Edsberg Park, the nature reserve Järvafältet and the Rösjö area attract a lot of people to the outdoor life.

Sollentuna is ranked as one of the best enterprise-friendly municipalities in Sweden. Through a dialogue and by being sensitive to needs, Sollentuna tries to assist enterprises that wish to start operations and grow in the municipality.

About VASCO

VASCO designs, develops, markets and supports patented DIGIPASS®, DIGIPASS PLUS®, VACMAN®, IDENTIKEY® and aXs GUARD® authentication products for the financial world, remote access, e-business and e-commerce. 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. This document may contain trademarks of VASCO Data Security International, Inc. and its subsidiaries, which include VASCO, the VASCO “V” design, DIGIPASS, VACMAN, aXs GUARD and IDENTIKEY.

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