Combination of PKI encryption and dynamic passwords secure Dorset County Council’s network and confidential information

Dorset County Council is an elected administrative governmental authority. To secure access to its internal network and confidential data, the council required a secure remote access and PKI solution that met mandatory requirements and guidelines as indicated by the UK Cabinet Office. Dorset County Council implemented DIGIPASS GO 3 and DIGIPASS 860 with PKI functionality to protect its business critical data and network infrastructure from unauthorized access.

Furthermore, the council wanted to add a high-value solution that was compatible with its existing back-end infrastructure without compromising on user-friendliness.

VASCO OFFERS “BEST-VALUE”

Having previously run an Out of Office Working pilot involving two-factor authentication, Dorset County Council was already acquainted with VASCO’s solutions.

“We were familiar with VASCO as we had already run a pilot project where we ordered a small quantity of DIGIPASS authenticators”, Brian Hole, ICT Project Manager at Dorset Council. “Whilst running an options appraisal for the IEA project, we explored offerings from different vendors, but chose to work with VASCO as it offered us a best-value authentication solution. Previously, we were very happy with the outcome of the pilot project. VASCO offered an authentication solution that was compatible with our existing back-end infrastructure eliminating the need to purchase additional servers or hardware. As we already worked with VASCO, we by now had the necessary IT knowledge in house, and if need be, could always contact their support department as we had already established a working relationship. In the end, deploying VASCO’s authentication technology, really gave us a head-start.”

FLEXIBLE AUTHENTICATION SIMPLIFIES WORKING PROCEDURES

To secure remote access to its enterprise resource management system and network for ambulant employees, Dorset County Council was on the lookout for an economical, user-friendly and flexible solution. “From budgetary point of view, it wasn’t feasible to provide every employee with a laptop or desktop PC”, Brian says. “We found an ideal solution in VASCO’s DIGIPASS GO 3 as it enables secure remote access and was both easy and economical to deploy. Additionally, it is very intuitive to use ensuring a high user acceptance; a very critical aspect for the implementation of any security solution.”

With the touch of a button, the device generates a unique dynamic password that can only be used once to login and is verified by VASCO’s authentication software VACMANI. For the next login session, a new password has to be generated by DIGIPASS GO 3 as every password expires automatically after 32 seconds. Hence stealing passwords for batch processing becomes useless for fraudsters, as every login requires a new unique password.
“DIGIPASS GO 3 proves to be a very flexible solution. It allowed us to enable secure remote access while adhering to governmental guidelines regarding IT security and data confidentiality; ultimately simplifying the duties of our personnel ‘on the road’. Social care workers for instance, are able to log-on from any PC with an internet connection, allowing them to access critical information prior to making house-to-house visits”, Brian states.

**PKI AND OTP FUNCTIONALITY COMBINED IN ONE INGENIOUS DEVICE**

To prevent data breaches in case a laptop is lost or stolen, the council needed a solution that encrypted confidential information rendering it useless when falling into the wrong hands. At the same time, they needed to guarantee secure remote access so employees would be able to work from home or on location.

DIGIPASS 860 combines OTP and PKI technology with secure USB storage on a single device turning it into an ultimate user-friendly authenticator. The solution is used to secure local and remote access to the network and encrypt the laptops’ hard drives. Employees plug the device into a USB slot in order to start up the laptop. DIGIPASS 860 consequently decrypts the hard drive. After booting up, DIGIPASS 860 can be used as a one-button authentication device that generates dynamic passwords enabling staff to log on to the corporate network from any location at any given time.

“DIGIPASS 860 is a very ingenious solution”, declares Brian Hole. “It offers us maximum security with minimal impact on our end-users. The combination of disk encryption and OTP functionality in one device made it the perfect solution for us to deploy. Thanks to VASCO, we were able to roll out a secure solution that was readily accepted.”

The combination of DIGIPASS 860 and DIGIPASS GO 3 offered Dorset City Council a user-friendly and flexible solution with low implementation costs that reduces the level of risks and complies with Governmental guidelines.

**Objective**

Dorset County Council was in need of a multiple authentication solution that could secure remote network access for all employees as well as ensure the confidentiality of data stored on laptops.

**Challenge**

Implement a user-friendly, cost-efficient and easy-to-deploy authentication solution that is compatible with the Council’s existing back-end infrastructure.

**Solution**

VASCO’s DIGIPASS GO 3 provides Dorset County Council’s ambulant workforce with a secure remote access solution. By deploying DIGIPASS 860 with PKI-functionality, laptop users are able to access the council’s network remotely by generating dynamic passwords without compromising business-critical data stored on the laptop’s drive thanks to hard-disk encryption. Both DIGIPASS solutions were fully compatible with the council’s existing back-end infrastructure; allowing them to deploy two-factor authentication at the lowest total cost of ownership.

**About Dorset County Council**

Dorset is a county in South West England on the English Channel coast. Dorset County Council is the county’s elected administrative governmental authority made up of 45 councilors who take the major decisions of the county council. They are elected by the local community and are responsible for making decisions on behalf of the local community about local services and budgets, such as council tax.

**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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