

# DMK Deutsches Milchkontor secures remote access with DIGIPASS and IDENTIKEY Authentication Server

**DMK Deutsches Milchkontor, Germany's largest dairy company, already relied on strong two-factor authentication for years to secure remote access to its network and critical data. As a part of a data center consolidation and the replacement of remote access hardware, the company decided to migrate from its previous deployed solution to VASCO's DIGIPASS technology and at the same time upgraded its server to IDENTIKEY.**



With 6,240 employees in 24 locations, and a turnover of 4.4 billion euros, DMK is the largest dairy company in Germany and one of the leading companies in Europe.

DMK Deutsches Milchkontor processes 6.6 billion kilos of milk annually by about 9,800 active milk producers. The cooperative Deutsches Milchkontor eG (DMK eG) was formed in 2012 by the merger of Nordmilch eG, Humana Milchunion eG and Molkereigenossenschaft Bad Bibra eG.

## REMOTE ACCESS COMPLETELY RE-ORGANIZED

As part of the merger and the formation of a public limited company it was decided that the existing data centers would be consolidated in one central data center. In addition, a change of hardware platform to secure remote access was required as the manufacturer had discontinued the technical support for the existing hardware. Therefore, DMK decided to completely re-organize its remote access infrastructure and re-tender its authentication solution, especially as the company wanted to move to software authenticators in the future.

Recommended by its longtime system partner concentrate GmbH, based in Dortmund, DMK implemented a new remote-access platform mid-2012 consisting of a Juniper appliance and VASCO's IDENTIKEY Authentication Server. concentrate, that also installed the company's previous solution, was actively involved in the planning and installation of the migration to VASCO. During a test phase, some users were equipped with DIGIPASS GO 6 authenticators, others with DIGIPASS for Mobile using the company's own BlackBerrys. The test proved to be successful and the first users were completely moved to the new platform in November. By April 2013, around 300 users were migrated. The conversion will be completed no later than 2015.

## NO MORE FIXED EXPIRATION TIMES

Michael Knipping, Team Leader Network DMK, explains that the company mainly decided on VASCO with the objective of focusing on software authentication. "With our previous solution all tokens had a fixed expiration date, regardless of their actual state," said Knipping. "Not only did this cost us unnecessary money, but we also bought the tokens in packs of 50 to reduce cost price. This however meant that we needed to convert 50 users at once. VASCO does not have these

fixed expiration dates and its DIGIPASS for Mobile solution of course doesn't need to be replaced due to expiring batteries." In addition, the VASCO solution was also much cheaper than other alternatives according to Knipping.

## MIGRATION WITH PARALLEL OPERATION

The transition to the new solution was simplified as both solutions are running in parallel. Employees are gradually converted to the VASCO platform. Until then they continue to use the remaining, older solution to log on to the existing data center. Employees are converted to the VASCO solutions whenever their existing tokens expire, and if possible, even earlier. It would have been technically possible to integrate both systems through a proxy solution, but DMK wanted to execute the migration process with minimal complexity. Even so, nothing has changed for the practical user. Employees continue to work with the Juniper VPN client, only is their one-time password now generated by a new authenticator. Transition to the new solution therefore went very smoothly.

DMK's IT administrators are also very pleased with the new solution. "The installation and the tests ran without major problems," said Michael Knipping. "The rollout of the authenticators didn't pose a big challenge. Furthermore, we have enjoyed concentrate's excellent support throughout the project and have benefited from their experience with other projects."



### Objective

Replace the existing authentication solution for remote access in a data center consolidation. In addition, the company wanted to move to software authenticators.

### Challenge

The migration had to be done on the fly, without compromising remote access security.

### Solution

DMK decided on a combination of IDENTIKEY Authentication with DIGIPASS hardware and software technology. The migration from the previous solution to the current one was done in a step-by-step parallel operation.



## About DMK Deutsches Milchkontor



DMK Deutsches Milchkontor's is Germany's largest dairy company with 6.6 billion kilos of milk delivered annually by about 9,800 active milk producers. The milk is processed at 24 sites with the help of 6,240 employees.

The product portfolio ranges from basic milk products and cheese, branded products such as MILRAM savory curds and Ravensberger desserts, industry products, milk-based ingredients for the food processing industry, Humana baby food and Sanobub ice cream to health products. . With a turnover of 4.4 billion euros, DMK is also one of the European leaders of the dairy industry.

## About concentrade



concentrade is renowned solution provider in the field of IT security and network communications based in Dortmund. The company was founded in 1997 as a limited liability company (GmbH). concentrade's goal is to ensure a trouble-free network operation and the effective and cost-efficient minimization of security risks for its customers.

## About Arrow ECS



Arrow ECS, with offices in Fürstfeldbruck near Munich, was founded in 1988. The company currently employs 200 people in Fürstfeldbruck and its logistics centre in Neuenstein. Arrow ECS is an information technology distributor specializing in providing enterprise class solutions and services focused on data storage, network security, unified communications and virtualization.

## 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 global software company for Internet Security and designs, develops, markets and supports DIGIPASS®, CertiID™, 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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