

Finanz Informatik/Sparkassen



Challenge

- Strong authentication for Windows® Logon.
- Compliance with regulations.
- Complete solution— both software and hardware.

Solution

- DigitalPersona® authentication solution
- U.are.U® 4500

“The DigitalPersona solution secures Windows logon according to the requirements of Secure IT operations.”

Joachim Hübner
Department Manager
Sparkasse Wolfach

Germany

Sparkasse Wolfach is one of many savings banks (Sparkassen) in Germany which increased the security of their IT operations with the support of MTRIX and Finanz Informatik by implementing DigitalPersona® authentication software. The employee system logon is no longer secured by only username and password, but additionally by fingerprint biometrics.

CHALLENGE

As an IT service provider of the German Savings Banks Finance Group, Finanz Informatik (FI) is responsible for evaluating and providing suitable IT applications for savings banks, federal state banks and other group partners. Based on increasing requirements regarding the safety of sensitive data and IT systems of the savings banks, in 2009 FI searched for a strong authentication solution. They specifically looked for a solution that would increase the security of their Single Sign-On applications because auditing agencies were increasingly demanding the use of strong authentication.

FINANZ INFORMATIK CHOOSES DIGITALPERSONA FOR BIOMETRIC AUTHENTICATION

In order to give a choice for the different saving banks, FI looked at one solution based on smart cards and one based on biometrics. Soon the decision to adopt biometric authentication was made. “We evaluated different biometric-centric authentication solutions and selected the DigitalPersona solution because it offers a complete package, including both adaptable software and high-performance fingerprint hardware,” said Ingo Neuhaus, Product Manager for Strong Authentication at FI. “In combination with the 3rd level and integration support, as well as the support for rollout and logistics by MTRIX, DigitalPersona presents an unbeatable solution.”

SPARKASSE WOLFACH RELIES ON BIOMETRICS

In 2011, to meet the specifications of the Auditing Association of German Banks at an early stage, Sparkasse Wolfach, a savings bank located in Germany’s Black Forest with five departments and 84 bank employees, implemented the DigitalPersona strong authentication solution.

“We considered both methods offered by FI – biometrics and smart card – and evaluated the pros and cons,” said Joachim Hübner, Department Manager of Sparkasse Wolfach. “The easy implementation

BENEFITS**Increased Security Strong**

“Proof-of- Presence” authentication from biometrics.

Improved Employee Productivity

Simple employee access to the network and applications through the use of fingerprint readers.

Reduced Costs

Elimination of calls to the IT Department and costs for replacing lost or stolen USB keys.

process, as well as the comfortable and user friendly handling quickly convinced us of DigitalPersona’s solution. Unlike the certificate of a smart card, a fingerprint does not expire. Also, you can’t forget your finger.”.

EASY ROLLOUT AND GOOD ACCEPTANCE AMONG EMPLOYEES

In July 2011, a test period with ten employees was started at Sparkasse Wolfach and by September, rollout for all employees began. “The acceptance among our employees is very good,” Hübner affirmed. “The project was fully completed in August 2012 and all employees are using the system. With assistance from Finanz Informatik and MTRIX, the system was also quickly set up for employees whose fingerprints are more difficult to capture.

”With the new DigitalPersona authentication solution, the screen lock can now be quickly and conveniently activated by placing a finger on the fingerprint reader. To comply with the safety standards at the savings bank, both password and fingerprint are required for unlocking. “Today we use the DigitalPersona solution to secure logon to the Windows system according to the requirements of Secure IT-operations. It would be preferable for the future to secure also further applications with this solution” said Hübner.

ABOUT FINANZ INFORMATIK

Finanz Informatik (FI), headquartered in Frankfurt am Main, is the IT service provider of the German Savings Banks Finance Group and one of the largest banking-IT service providers in Europe. Customers include 413 savings banks, 8 federal state banks and DekaBank, 9 state buildings, loan associations, public insurers and various other companies within the Savings Banks Group and the financial services sector.

Finanz Informatik provides a full range of IT services, including the development and implementation of IT solutions, networks and technical infrastructure, as well as data processing centers, consulting, training and support. With our highly efficient comprehensive banking solution OSPlus, we have one of the leading IT systems in the German banking sector. Our portfolio includes further IT services and solutions from subsidiaries and partner companies like Finanz Informatik Technologie Service, Finanz Informatik Solutions Plus, Star Finanz and Inasys.

Finanz Informatik is responsible for servicing 122 million accounts. Each year we handle more than 102 billion technical transactions. We employ 3,304 people and generate together with our subsidiaries and partner companies sales of about 1.6 billion annually.



ABOUT MTRIX

MTRIX is the leading distributor focused on authentication solutions within the German-speaking region. Specialized in this market since 2006, MTRIX has reputable corporations, organizations and service providers in the IT and

telecommunications industry, as well as numerous end users, resellers and system integrators among its suppliers and customers.

MTRIX is a member of the Federation of IT security association (TeleTrust), the European Association for Biometrics (EAB), the German American Business Association (GABA) and the FIDO (Fast Identity Online) Alliance.

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