

MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN MAINFRAME ACCESS SECURITY

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Token authentication for mainframe users now inexpensive, easy to install and easy to manage.

Until now, mainframe users wanting to improve their access security with authentication tokens have been hampered by the cost and complexity. However, the introduction of VASCO's Digipass Plug-in for RACF (Resource Access Control Facility) makes token authentication both hassle-free and inexpensive. This major step forward means that large corporates with hundreds or thousands of users, who may be geographically widespread, can be sure that those accessing mainframe systems really are who they say they are.

VASCO's Digipass strong authentication products are natively integrated into RACF, IBM's leading security product for mainframe environments, and no additional authentication server is necessary. This gives users a strong authentication solution which is both low-cost and easy to administer. No client-side software or configurations are needed, which enhances the ease of deployment and the scalability, as well as lowering the TCO (total cost of ownership) dramatically.

Ian Kilpatrick, chairman of VASCO VAD Wick Hill Group, commented:

"The collapse of the traditional concept of perimeter security is increasingly impacting mainframe security - strong authentication is now a crucial identity requirement for many large organisations. With this significant development, VASCO has delivered the most straightforward and cost effective solution to this problem"

Although VASCO's Digipass Plug-in for RACF is extremely beneficial for mainframe users across the board, it is particularly suitable for companies needing to improve their internal security access. There is a growing demand for an inexpensive and easy to manage solution which can improve access security in today's increasingly insecure environment of rapidly growing access points, proliferating access devices such as PDAs or laptops, more customer access, and the use of technologies such as wireless.

These all contribute to the erosion of traditional network boundaries and increase security risks. Financial and pharmaceutical companies, with an above average need for security and a large numbers of users, will find this new solution particularly appropriate.

VASCO's Digipass Plug-in for RACF is available, together with other VASCO products, from Wick Hill resellers. (www.wickhill.com).

NOTES FOR EDITORS

* Internal risk

Internal security is a very real problem. According to the Computer Security Institute's Eighth Annual CSI/FBI Computer Crime and Security Survey for 2003, 45% of respondents said they had had experienced unauthorised access by insiders in the previous 12 months. 80% reported insider abuse of net access, and 81% said they saw disgruntled employees as a likely source of attack.

Internally, single passwords are very risky, because of the tendency of staff to write them down, reveal them when asked, or stick them on computers. The range of potential security issues raised by unauthorised employee access to systems is wide.

According to the DTI Information Security Breaches Survey 2004, the most common security breach relating to identity management involved staff gaining unauthorised access to information. The survey found that companies affected reported roughly one incident per month.. Confidentiality breaches caused major disruption over a long period, while remedying the situation and investigating it involved significant staff time (10-20 man-days on average). These breaches also led to significant cash expenditure on legal fees, investigation costs, etc.

* Authentication tokens

Gartner's 2003 report 'The identification and authentication spectrum', says that: "Classic hardware or software tokens combined with personal identification numbers provide simple, unique, and strong network access control."

About Wick Hill

Established in 1976, VAD (value added distributor) Wick Hill specialises in secure infrastructure solutions. The company's portfolio covers security, performance, access, services and management. Wick Hill sources and delivers best-of-breed, easy-to-use solutions through its channel partners, providing customer support, implementation, training and technical services. www.wickhill.com

About VASCO

VASCO designs, develops, markets and supports patented "Identity Authentication" products for e-business and e-commerce. VASCO's Identity Authentication software is delivered via its Digipass security products, small "calculator" hardware devices carried by an end user, or in a software format on mobile phones, other portable devices, and PCs. With 10 million Digipass sold and shipped, VASCO has established itself as a world-leader for strong Identity Authentication with 200 international financial institutions, approximately 1000 blue-chip corporations, and governments representing more than 60 countries. VASCO was founded in 1997 and is a public corporation traded on NASDAQ under the symbol VDSI. www.vasco.com

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