

CD&V enables its staff and volunteers to remotely access its network in a secure way thanks to DIGIPASS technology

CD&V, currently the largest political party in Belgium, needed a secure remote access solution enabling its staff to log-on to the network anywhere, anytime. They implemented VASCO's DIGIPASS solution with the software server IDENTIKEY, a straightforward and user-friendly authentication method that is far more secure than the use of traditional static passwords.



SECURE ACCESS TO THE NETWORK 'ON THE GO'

CD&V, the Flemish Christian Democratic party, is currently the largest political party in Belgium, participating in all government levels, from the federal government to the smallest municipalities. The political party employs approximately 100 people and has approximately 3,600 local political representatives and has about 75,000 members.

CD&V wanted to implement a remote access solution enabling its staff to access confidential documents from home or on location. Once a secure remote access solution would be in place, working securely from home could become reality. CD&V knew that traditional static passwords to log-on remotely were far from secure and was on the lookout for a strong authentication solution. Through its IT-reseller Exabyte, CD&V was introduced to VASCO's two-factor authentication solutions.

SEAMLESS INTEGRATION WITH CITRIX

CD&V uses DIGIPASS technology in combination with IDENTIKEY server software to secure remote access to its Citrix network. The IDENTIKEY server software was linked to CD&V's existing Active Directory. The communication between the IDENTIKEY server and Citrix XenApp proceeds through RADIUS protocol. DIGIPASS devices are easily assigned to the Active Directory using IDENTIKEY's web-based administration interface.

"VASCO's authentication solutions are very cost-effective", said Koenraad Van Coppenolle of the CD&V IT-dienst. "IDENTIKEY was swiftly and seamlessly integrated into our existing Active Directory and enabled us to add strong authentication to our existing back-end infrastructure without making additional investments in costly hardware", Koenraad Van Coppenolle continued.

REAL-TIME ACCESS TO UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

Remote users logon to the Citrix web portal with their Windows password and a one-time password generated by DIGIPASS GO 6. Once the password has been validated by the server, the user is authenticated into the Citrix XenApp environment. Through Citrix XenApp, users at home or 'on the go' get to see the same desktop and applications as they would at the main office.

Documents can be opened and updated instantaneously without any delays. Before CD&V deployed strong authentication, its users had to access one of the secure VPN-connections on site to view information stored on the network. Another option was to establish a software-based VPN connection in order to enable secure communications with the central network. In practice, this proved to be a cumbersome and unmanageable process.

DIGIPASS: AN OUTSTANDING SOLUTION

The use of the DIGIPASS device was rapidly accepted. "Our staff was very positive about the solution because it allowed them to work securely from home or any location where an internet connection was available", said Koenraad Van Coppenolle. "Everybody thinks it is an outstanding and flexible solution. Especially because DIGIPASS GO 6 is a small and portable device that you can take along everywhere."

DIGIPASS authentication has fulfilled all of CD&V's security needs. Employees are now provided with a secure and straightforward means to remotely access business-critical information on the central network. The use of DIGIPASS does not require any additional software or complicated procedures; one of the main requirements the political party posed. From the IT department's point of view, it is an easy-to-manage solution with an intuitive web-based administration interface.

"DIGIPASS is a far more secure means of authenticating users than traditional static passwords", Koenraad Van Coppenolle stated. "The combination of something you have – the device – and something you know – the



dynamic password and PIN code – makes credential theft virtually impossible. As the passwords generated by the DIGIPASS device expire after merely 32 seconds, the window of opportunity for fraudsters is severely reduced. Furthermore, each password can only be used once. On the off chance that a password would be intercepted, it would've hence long expired and be useless. Thank to DIGIPASS, our employees have real-time access to up-to-date documents and information anywhere at any given time.”



Objective

CD&V wanted to implement a remote access solution enabling its staff to work from home or on location. The political party wanted a more secure means of logging on to its network than traditional static passwords in order to secure its confidential information and prevent unauthorized access.

Challenge

A high user-acceptance was crucial. Employees shouldn't perceive the solution as an obstacle. Furthermore, the solution mustn't cause any delays in data transfers and had to be easy to manage by the political party's IT staff.

Solution

VASCO's DIGIPASS technology combined with IDENTIKEY, allowed CD&V to secure its Citrix XenApp solution in a very cost-effective manner. Thanks to IDENTIKEY's web-based administration interface, managing the authentication process is simple as a breeze. The one-button authenticator is very simple to use and was readily accepted by its end-users. Employees can now securely access confidential information anywhere, anytime using DIGIPASS GO 6.

About CD&V



CD&V is currently the largest political party in Belgium, participating in all government levels. In Europe, they delivered the first European president. In the Belgian federal government, the party provides the prime minister and on community level, they provide the Flemish Minister-President. CD&V also has responsibilities in the provinces (governors and Deputies) and municipalities (mayor and aldermen). Additional to its political staff (3600 +), CD&V is also a volunteer organization with approximately 75,000 members. CD&V also employs about a hundred people in its secretariat and regional houses.

About Exabyte



Exabyte BVBA was founded in 2008 by Kristof Vertongen and Luc Stroobant. Both have ample experience in the IT-world and decided to join forces in order to provide an extended product and services offering. Exabyte is financed with private capital and is debt free. During its first year, the company achieved good results. Currently, Exabyte is investing heavily in its expansion.

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 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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