

# Protestant Church Netherlands implements DIGIPASS GO 6 and VACMAN Controller to secure its membership files

The Protestant Church in the Netherlands is with its 2.1 million members the largest Protestant denomination in the Netherlands. Today, church members use an online registration system. Because this system contains confidential information about church members security is essential. In order to secure its membership files and make them remotely accessible, the Protestant Church decided to implement VASCO's DIGIPASS GO 6 and VACMAN Controller authentication software.



## Protestantse Kerk

### REGISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Following the government decision that churches must possess up-to-date membership files, the Protestant Church started an online member's registration project named LRP (Members Registration Protestant Church). It was very important that the security measures to protect the online application were in accordance with the Data Protection act as well as with the guidelines and policies of the Protestant Church itself. Not only does the system contain personal information about church members, but it also linked to the population register through SILA (inter-religious foundation records). Changes in population such as marriages, relocations, birth etc. can be easily processed and the data remain up-to-date. Obviously, such personal details need to remain confidential and require data security.

In order to realize this, the Protestant Church required a user-friendly solution that was cost-efficient at the same time – despite the large number of users. “To make an informed choice, we investigated various market leaders in the field of strong authentication. We opted for VASCO because the company offered us the best price-performance ratio. As we were already familiar with VASCO's DIGIPASS technology for online banking, the idea to use equivalent security to protect our membership files was very appealing”, said Henry Kieskamp, Head of ICT at the service organization of the Protestant Church, also project manager of LRP.

DIGIPASS GO 6 is very easy to use and can easily be distributed among users. The Protestant Church expects to have at least 10,000 end-users. The church opted for a one-button DIGIPASS authenticator which is extremely user-friendly and can therefore be used by people of different ages and with different backgrounds.

### STRONG AUTHENTICATION TO SECURE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

The church's registration application records data of members of the Protestant

Church so that all personal and membership details remain up to date. These records can then be easily used to connect with community members, or keep track of working visits etc. “Strong authentication ensures that passwords no longer can be shared. This allows us to ensure that only authorized persons have access to member information. In addition, by using VASCO's authentication solution, we comply with the Data Protection Act”, Kieskamp states. The LRP application can now only be accessed by administrators, ministers, elders and church staff in possession of a DIGIPASS device.

DIGIPASS GO 6 in combination with VACMAN Controller is based on three working principles: who you are (login name), something you have (DIGIPASS) and something you know (password). By combining these three factors, intercepting the password is virtually impossible. To log-on, the user enters a password of his choice. He then uses DIGIPASS GO 6 to generate a dynamic one-time password (OTP). This password can be used just once and its validity is limited in time. Intercepting this dynamic password is useless as it cannot be reused and will no longer be valid.



“The information stored in the LRP system is highly confidential. To ensure that this information is not accessible for unauthorized persons, we have implemented VASCO's DIGIPASS GO 6. By using a password in combination with a DIGIPASS dynamic password, intercepting data becomes almost impossible”, said Kieskamp.

**REMOTE ACCESS FOR ALL USERS**

Besides high security, remote access was another essential requirement as end-users mostly log-on to the application from home. Thanks to DIGIPASS and VACMAN Controller, the LRP application can be accessed from any computer with a browser without having to install additional software on the end-user's PC.

The combination with VACMAN Controller was ideal for the Protestant Church because of the large number of users. VACMAN is VASCO's authentication platform which is suitable for large deployments. The implementation of VACMAN also has a minimal impact on existing infrastructures and is cost-effective.

"We chose to implement VACMAN as the solution exactly fits our requirements," Kieskamp said. "Our church has many members and access to the application for finance committees, preachers, elders and other council members must be guaranteed. We wanted a future proof solution with a platform that could support an expansion in the number of users if need be. VACMAN Controller proved to be ideal."



**A CUSTOMIZED SOLUTION**

Another important aspect for the Protestant Church was that the system and its security should be clearly linked to the church. The church therefore opted for a personalized DIGIPASS. "We were able to customize the appearance of the DIGIPASS device. We quickly decided to display our logo on the device, resulting in an authenticator that is easy to recognize and reflects our ideas", says Kieskamp.



**Objective**

Implement a strong authentication solution to secure the member registration application of the Protestant Church and make it remotely accessible.

**Challenge**

The solution must be easy to implement, user-friendly and cost-effective.

**Solution**

The Protestant Church implemented a personalized DIGIPASS GO 6 device in combination with the authentication software VACMAN Controller to secure its LRP application.

**About the Protestant Church in the Netherlands**

The Protestant Church in the Netherlands has about 2.1 million members spread over the nearly 2000 local churches. For more information, please visit [www.pkn.nl](http://www.pkn.nl).

**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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