

Croatian Telecom uses VASCO's strong authentication to secure its Virtual Desktop

Croatian Telecom offers a combination of services for both fixed and mobile telephony, data transmission, Internet and international communications. The company decided to implement Virtual DIGIPASS in combination with IDENTIKEY Authentication Server to support its cloud computing strategy. The implementation of VASCO's solution made it possible to secure the virtual desktops that the Croatian Telecom offers to telecom customers via a public cloud.



Croatian Telecom is a member of the T-HT Group and a leading provider of telecommunications services in Croatia.

The company is currently expanding its public cloud offerings with a virtual desktop-as-a-service solution in order to maintain its leadership position in the Croatian market. The goal is to enable access for users on a variety of mobile and stationary devices. While looking for a security solution to protect its user's data in the cloud, Croatian Telecom came to VASCO.

STRONG AUTHENTICATION IN THE CLOUD

Croatian Telecom's goal was to offer advanced IT solutions and services to small and medium businesses which usually cannot afford advanced IT solutions due to high price and complexity. The virtual desktops in the cloud that are included in the offering - named Cloud Computer - required a user-friendly and cost-efficient security solution. The solution needed to ensure that confidential customers' business information remain confidential. End-users should be able to access the cloud services anywhere, anytime in a safe manner without compromising user-friendliness. VASCO's Virtual DIGIPASS in combination with IDENTIKEY Server resulted to be the perfect solution to fit these needs.

EASY INTEGRATION INTO COMCLOUD

To realize this project, Croatian Telecom worked with Combis, another member of the T-HT group. Combis is specialized in consultancy, development, implementation, integration and maintenance of complete and complex information, application and communication turn-key solutions. The two companies made it possible to provide the Croatian market with an extensive range of information-telecommunications business solutions and services.

One of the main challenges that had to be overcome was the integration of the strong authentication solution into the overall ComCloud solution. It had to use a selected, consolidated database and had to be integrated in the ComCloud automated provisioning system and its portals so it could be used on any client. This allows Croatian Telecom to offer any service on any device using any network. It was very important that the company could offer a completely integrated security solution to its clients, so they did not have to worry about additional security measures.

Croatian Telecom decided to use VASCO's IDENTIKEY back-end in order to overcome these challenges. IDENTIKEY Server does not demand a lot of budgetary or personnel investments. It offers complete functionality and management features and can be easily integrated into existing web-based applications.

HIGH SECURITY, LOW PRICE

In order to decide upon a security solution, the commercial aspect had to be taken into account. To be able to offer an affordable but highly secure solution to small and medium businesses, Croatian Telecom had to opt for a security solution that fitted into its price policy. Virtual DIGIPASS is a cost-effective solution for user authentication and e-signatures. The end-user can authenticate him/herself when he/she wants to use the virtual desktop by using his/her mobile phone. To log on to the virtual desktop, users have to use the one-time password (OTP) they receive via text message on their mobile phone. All a user needs to do is enter his/her user ID and PIN and a one-time password is immediately sent to his or her mobile phone via SMS.



A one-time password is a password that can only be used once and is valid for a limited period of time. If it would be intercepted by a hacker, the password would be useless because it would not be valid anymore.

"User-friendliness was one of the main requirements in choosing the right solution. We wanted to make the use of virtual desktop secure and convenient at the same time. We are one of the first telecom companies to provide this kind of service in Europe and we are proud to have found the perfect balance between user convenience, security and cost", says Tomislav Kosanovi, Director of ICT Products from Croatian Telecom.

ANYTIME, ANYWHERE

"We wanted to enable the user to access his/her data at any time on any device. Our new ComCloud solution uses VASCO's strong authentication

solution, to accomplish this task in a safe, secure and efficient way. We provided our customers with secure access to a virtual desktop, without the high price that security solutions might entail”, says Goran Car, Director of Professional Services Division from Combis. “VASCO’s solution is highly portable as the mobile phone acts as an authentication device - a device that everyone carries around in their pockets. End-users no longer have to worry or think about carrying around an extra device for authentication, and we don’t have to worry about the distribution process of hardware authenticators.”

Croatian Telecom focuses its business on small and medium enterprises that usually cannot afford complex advanced IT solutions due to high price and complexity. When offering cloud services, the main concern for clients is security. By offering these cloud services combined with VASCO’s strong authentication to its customers, Croatian Telecom responds to the demands of its customer base. Now the company’s customers can access virtual desktops in a secure way for a fair price and can increase their market competitiveness.

Objective

Croatian Telecom intended to offer a Virtual Desktop to its customers with a completely integrated security solution. They had to design a solution that would provide high security at a competitive price per month per user.

Challenge

The main challenge was to implement a secure but cost-effective solution that is user-friendly and would fit into the existing infrastructure.

Solution

Virtual DIGIPASS in combination with IDENTIKEY Server provided the perfect answer to the demands of Croatian Telecom. The solution offers an easy-to-integrate, highly secure environment and fits into the price policy of the company.



About Croatian Telecom



Croatian Telecom is a member of the T-HT Group and a leading provider of telecommunications services in Croatia. The basic activities of Hrvatski Telekom d.d. (Croatian Telecom) and other subsidiary companies comprise provision of telecommunications services, design and construction of telecommunications networks in the territory of the Republic of Croatia. In addition to the provision of fixed telephony services (fixed-line access and traffic, as well as fixed-network supplementary services), the Group also provides Internet services, including IPTV, data transmission services (lease of lines, Metro-Ethernet, IP/MPLS, ATM) and GSM and UMTS mobile telephone networks.

About COMBIS



Established in 1990, COMBIS has evolved over the years into a prominent system integrator that holds significant experience in consulting, development, implementation, integration and maintenance of complete and complex information, application and communication turn-key solutions. In 2010, COMBIS became a member of T-HT Group, and as of then, the Croatian market is provided with an extensive range of information-telecommunications business solutions and services.

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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