

Auto parts supplier protects sensitive partner information with tiered access control

As part of their contract with a major car manufacturer, an auto parts supplier located in the Northwest is required to secure access to sensitive data with two-factor authentication. The Sphinx Enterprise software allows them to protect data access both in the office and on the shop floor.

The Challenge

- **Different levels, different privileges**
Office personnel needed access to administrative information. Shop floor employees needed access to specifications and confidential technical details. Certain logons needed to be machine-specific, while other logons could be used at multiple workstations.
- **Auditable on demand**
The car manufacturer has the right to visit the supplier's facility at any time to ascertain that access to manufacturer-specific information is properly protected and only available to those who need it.

The Solution

Already in use: Desfire building access card

Purchased: Sphinx Enterprise software licenses, Desfire card readers

Some highlights of their solution:

- **All logons centrally managed**
IT personnel create logon entries that are machine specific and/or employee specific. They also have four user groups: management, administrative, shop management, shop employees. They then mix and match logon entries for each user group and individual employees as required.

- **Two-factor authentication**
Employees present their card (factor 1) and type their PIN (factor 2) to logon to any workstation, both in the office and on the shop floor.
- **Usage log provides audit trail**
Because Sphinx records employee logon activity throughout the day, the car manufacturer can monitor how the parts supplier is protecting privileged car data. At any given time, they are able to view exactly which of the supplier's employees accessed workstations with specific technical information.

Customer Feedback

"Honestly, before we installed Sphinx Enterprise, managing our logon data was out of control. It would make your head spin trying to keep track of who was allowed to access workstations with certain manufacturer-specific data."

"So in fact, when we were required to institute two-factor authentication by the manufacturer it was a blessing in disguise. Now we can see at a glance who has access to what information, and we can update it and add new entries as needed."

"We've been running without a flaw for six months now. Clearly we've come to depend on the Sphinx Enterprise software and we can't imagine being without it!"