

Sphinx helps government enhance logical access with fingerprint authentication

A Hong Kong government agency required multi-factor strong authentication to ensure that the network and PCs could only be accessed by authorized users. The flexibility of the Sphinx Logon Manager Enterprise software enabled them to meet the various security needs of all levels of their employees with a unified solution.

The Challenge:

- **Primary logon:**
All employees needed secure two-factor authentication to logon to Windows XP machines.
- **Multiple strong authentication methods:**
Certain employees were required to use additional strong authentication methods, incorporating PKI and fingerprint.
- **Flexibility:**
The solution must be extensible, able to adapt to new authentication requirements, and able to integrate with an existing PKI/certificate infrastructure.

The Solution

Purchased: Smart cards, Sphinx Enterprise software licenses, fingerprint/card readers

All employees are issued a smart card that they use to logon to the company network.

- **For fingerprint authentication users:**
The Sphinx solution can store the fingerprint record either on the smart card or on the server, depending on the deployment scenario. In this case, the user self enrolls their fingerprint which is stored on the smart card, remaining in the possession of the user. During Windows logon, the user inserts the smart card

into the card reader and swipes their finger on the reader's fingerprint sensor. Once the fingerprint is matched correctly, the user is logged on to Windows.

Since the user fingerprint is not collected by the employer, this makes it easy for the customer to comply with the privacy information protection regulation from the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, Hong Kong.

- **For PKI users:**

In addition to authentication data, the user's digital certificate is also stored on the same smart card. When the user performs email signing and encryption, the smart card must be presented, since the certificate inside the smart card must be referenced for signing and encryption.

Customer Feedback

"We evaluated many solutions and looked carefully for a solution that was cost effective and provided maximum ROI. It was quite difficult to find one solution that could meet all of our needs, and we were very happy to find that the Sphinx solution could do it all, even fingerprint authentication and PKI."

"We have now used the solution for multiple years, and it has proven to be as effective and adaptable as we had hoped."