

Local Government Votes for CRYPTO-MAS

“With home-working the potential is huge... a worker should be able to go into any building and have secure access to Lewisham systems.”

- Kerry Kear, Programme Manager, Lewisham Council



Lewisham Council

Lewisham’s local government, constantly under pressure to provide better, faster, more personalized and more comprehensive service to their constituents - and to do so both securely and frugally - counts on a large group of workers providing services from any number of disparate locations in the community. CRYPTOCARD is helping to relieve the pressure with CRYPTO-MAS, its managed strong authentication service.

With the need to access networked data and services, Lewisham needed a VPN solution for its workforce that would not put the private and personal information of tens of thousands of residents at risk.

Even through a VPN and firewall, the commonly used username/password authentication method is a weak and easily defeated security measure.

Use of ‘static’, or unchanging, passwords would leave the Lewisham network open to attack – a situation that the council knew was simply unacceptable.

The challenge was to provide remote government workers with an easy to use, secure access solution that could be implemented quickly, and affordably.

“Authentication is the gatekeeper for all other security measures we put in place - the cornerstone of network security is our ability to confidently verify that a user is who he or she claims to be,” says Jason Hart, CEO of CRYPTOCARD, Europe.

“The challenge was in allowing local government workers to access Lewisham systems and for our own council workers to access our network from other agencies,” added Kerry Kear, program manager for Lewisham Council’s information systems, “We needed to make sure there were both high levels of security and ease of use with the solution we chose.”

Case in Point...

Lewisham Council Solution

- Fluctuating number of town council workers require secure VPN access to networked services
- For easy implementation and low cost, CRYPTOCARD’s Managed Authentication Service was chosen
- Deployment of the Two-Factor Authentication Tokens was quick and the process was managed with virtually no tech involvement from customer.
- End result - hundreds of users remotely accessing corporate resources - SECURELY

Case Study

CRYPTOCARD'S Managed Authentication

From previous experience, Mr. Kear was well aware that CRYPTOCARD's two-factor authentication solution could help them protect their on line assets and services. CRYPTOCARD offers its solutions either as software that can be installed and run in-house, or as a managed service. The council opted for CRYPTOCARD's Managed Authentication Service or CRYPTO-MAS – a cost effective, outsourced option that allowed the council to quickly implement a solution without any tech involvement from them or any concerns about network compatibility.

"We do the heavy lifting of authenticating users," says Hart, "And the managed service, implements so quickly, you can just about flip a switch and turn it on."

CRYPTOCARD took responsibility for the implementation and management of the council's new authentication process, providing 24x7 support and two-factor authentication using KT-1 key chain tokens.

When working remotely, Lewisham staff carry the tokens which generate a new one-time password for every logon. As the name suggests, these passwords work only once. This short life span eliminates the danger of a password being stolen, shared or written down and then used inappropriately. Once it has been used a password becomes nothing but a useless string of letters and numbers.

The End Result...

Some 250 local authority employees now have secure access to services when working remotely. These include resources in the council, NHS and social care - often private and sensitive information and all protected from unauthorized access.



Lewisham High Street

"It's been a lot of work but we are breaking ground here," adds Mr. Kear, "We are doing something that other authorities have not. A lot of it was about how to work with other departments and looking at what each group needed."

"With home working the potential is huge, if it all works as well as we hope. Employees should be able to go into any building and have access to Lewisham systems. That leaves the way open for secure mobile working and we are pushing for that."

About CRYPTOCARD

CRYPTOCARD is a leader and innovator in the Network Authentication Industry. Its multi-awarded, much-lauded Two-Factor Authentication options include both a server based or 'product' solution (CRYPTO-Shield) and a Managed Authentication Service (CRYPTO-MAS). The combination allows organizations of any size and means to adopt a strong authentication policy. CRYPTOCARD is unique in the industry in their commitment to ensuring their products/services work with any common network architecture including OS compatibility (Windows, Linux, Mac OS X), webserver flexibility (IIS, Apache) and database options (Active Directory, LDAP, Open Directory etc). Add to that the outstanding 'out of the box' interoperability with many top industry network solutions including Citrix, Checkpoint, Cisco and many more, and you begin to see how CRYPTOCARD has grown since its origin in 1989 to become a thriving enterprise doing business in more than 70 countries.

CRYPTOCARD North America

340 March Road
Suite 600
Ottawa, Ontario
K2K 2E4 Canada

Toll Free: 800-307-7042
Tel: +1-613-599-2441
Fax: +1-613-599-2442
E-mail: info@cryptocard.com
www.cryptocard.com

CRYPTOCARD Europe

Eden Park, Ham Green
Bristol BS20 0EB,
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 870 7077 700
Fax: +44 870 7077 711
E-mail: info@cryptocard.com
www.cryptocard.co.uk

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