



Mobile and flexible: the Bundeswehr (army of the Federal Republic of Germany) uses SafeGuard® Easy to encrypt the hard disks in its notebooks.

Profile

Bundeswehr

The Bundeswehr answers to the Bundesminister der Verteidigung (the German Federal Minister of Defense). In its role as a tool of state security and defense, the Bundeswehr has a range of tasks which include providing Germany with the means to act in the external political arena, make its contribution to European and global stability, guarantee national security and defense, contribute to the defense of allies and to work towards multinational cooperation and integration.

Industrial sector

Government

Region

International

Field of application

20,000 licenses in all organizational areas

Utimaco solutions

SafeGuard Easy

Implementation

Utimaco, Germany

Functions

Reliable protection for data on notebooks. Data remains secure even if the notebook is lost, copied or stolen.

Easy to install, administer and use. Invisible to users: no interruption to work processes.

Quick and easy implementation of company-wide security policies.

Long-term investment protection for data stocks due to modern encryption algorithms.

The challenge

"One of the Bundeswehr's strategic aims is to evaluate information accurately so that it can react quickly, appropriately and precisely. This means our IT security expectations must be high", explains Lieutenant Colonel Peter Warnicke, IT Security Officer for the Bundeswehr, *"because information quality also requires that this information remains confidential and does not fall into the wrong hands."*

The Bundeswehr's situation

The German Bundeswehr is one of Europe's largest armed forces. An organization this complex needs the best-possible technological equipment in all areas and a streamlined, up-to-date administration system. The issue of mobility is a crucial part of this: approximately 1,000 notebooks from various areas of the organization are constantly on the move between locations, with their users.

A typical user is a member of staff in NATO committees. They may often use public transport to get to NATO offices or other business destination. They always carry their notebook with them so they can continue working on a project or a presentation.

Even if the data on this notebook does not have any particular military significance, it is still classified as secret and is only available to those with appropriate authorization. The aim here is obvious: this data must be protected against unauthorized access.

"We really need high-level protection", says Lieutenant Colonel Warnicke, *"a notebook that belongs to someone in the Bundeswehr is a very tempting target for a thief. For us, espionage is not just an abstract risk: it is a real threat which we must protect ourselves against. Even thieves that are "only" motivated by material gain must not be able to access the information."*

Project background

The need for protecting sensitive data on notebooks has been defined in the Bundeswehr's central guidelines for IT security since 1999. These state the requirement for hard disk encryption and the comprehensive implementation of security solutions.

Any products used here must meet the Bundeswehr's stringent internal evaluation criteria. To ensure this, the Bundeswehr carries out its own tests and evaluations. However, in most cases the tests and certifications from the Bundesamt für Sicherheit in der Informationstechnik (BSI), the German government body that sets standards for IT security, are sufficient.

The solution

One of the most important arguments for using SafeGuard Easy is its certification by the BSI (German Federal Office for Information Security) in accordance with Evaluation Assurance Level 3 (EAL3) of the Common Criteria standard. After SafeGuard Easy's security features were checked and evaluated in accordance with internationally-recognized criteria it was granted the certification level "medium", which is the highest award that can be given to a purely software solution.

Another decisive plus point for SafeGuard Easy is its ease of implementation which means the security policy can be applied across the board throughout the Bundeswehr with a minimum of effort.



Last, but not least the modular structure of Utimaco solutions: the SafeGuard product family is able to cover the various requirements for IT security solutions in the many different areas of the Bundeswehr.

The choice

From a technological standpoint, the Bundeswehr's need for highest-possible security is met by two functions:

One of these is the use of powerful algorithms to encrypt hard disks which turn each notebook into an "electronic fortress". The other is the efficient and secure challenge-response procedure: this emergency system allows the administrator to generate a one-time password for a user if they forget their original password. This one-time password is either assigned personally or over the telephone, and allows the user to logon again quickly without exchanging confidential data in plain text.

In this situation the Bundeswehr would use a range of additional measures to identify the user. Even if someone eavesdrops on the conversation they cannot use this password to access the stored data at a later point in time.

The result:

The Bundeswehr has signed a contract with Utimaco Safeware for 20,000 separate licenses.

In the first step, product CDs were supplied to 40 sites for implementation. At the same time, administrators from all organizational areas of the Bundeswehr were given training for the "rollout". These training courses were agreed with Utimaco's training center and tailored to meet the particular requirements and environment of the Bundeswehr.