



Data on 7,000 Syngenta Notebooks Protected by Utimaco Safeware's SafeGuard® Easy

Profile

Syngenta

World-leading agribusiness. Sales in 2001 were approximately US \$6.3 billion. Syngenta employs more than 20,000 people in over 50 countries and 600 branches world-wide

Industrial sector

Industry

Business activity

world-wide

Field of application

7.000 notebook users e.g. research

Utimaco solution

SafeGuard® Easy

Realisation

Utimaco Safeware (Switzerland) Ltd. Pidas AG Consulting Services subsidiary of POLYDATA, activities in corporate development, outsourcing and retail in Switzerland, Germany and Austria

Functions

SafeGuard Easy protects sensitive data on notebooks with absolute reliability. Even in case of loss, replication, or theft no unauthorised person can obtain access to the information

Easy to administrate, virtually invisible and very user-friendly (transparent)

Easy implementation of company-wide security policy

Successful desktop security projects due to a short conception and test stage as well as quick realisation due to central configuration and intelligent software distribution

Migrations between Windows operating systems NT/2000/XP can be fully supported

The challenge

Some hundreds of our researchers carry their research results on their notebooks with them. These data are enormous valuable because the survey costs a lot of effort in money and time. Thus, they have to be protected unimpeachably, also if a notebook gets lost or is stolen. SafeGuard Easy approved to be the best solution."

Daniel Rose, IT security manager at Syngenta world-wide

The situation at Syngenta

Syngenta is a world leader in agribusiness, ranking first in crop protection and third in the high-value commercial seeds market.

In the course of their research projects Syngenta's researchers are often out on business for several months: in the corporate headquarters as well as in different subsidiaries onsite, in planes, at home or on the road - and the notebooks are always with them. For Syngenta research and innovation play a very important role and so the data on the notebooks often represents the results of many months' research. A competitor could save a lot of time and money if these results fell into his hands.

Project background

In order to secure its competitive advantage Syngenta - which came into being from the agrochemical business division merger of Novar

tis and Zeneca in 2000 - was looking for a solution to secure the data on its notebooks with absolute reliability. It had to be sure that no unauthorised person could acquire the information. Even if the complete notebook is stolen, the data stored on it should not be misappropriated by anyone else. The special challenge of equipping the complete range of Syngenta's notebooks was - like so often in security projects with existing infrastructures - the logistics. Syngenta has 600 subsidiaries world-wide and the notebooks are rarely in one place. Moreover, the solution had to be installed "in the background" without restricting the employees in their work. Yet, a security policy had to be implemented world-wide which could not be de-activated through the possible faulty use by an employee. An outsourcing service provider was charged with the development and realisation of the roll-out concept.

The solution

SafeGuard Easy was chosen to secure data on Syngenta's 7.000 notebooks, because the technical superiority of the solution was clear due to its user-friendliness and easy administration.

Only with SafeGuard Easy it was possible to realise the world-wide roll-out both easily and swiftly. The advantage is inestimable for the successful realisation of a company-wide security policy and the implementation of IT security projects.



The choice

The outsourcing service provider developed a configuration for SafeGuard Easy on the basis of the security policy. This configuration contains information about the encryption algorithm, key length, encrypted hard disks/partitions etc. Then, the configuration is transmitted to the subsidiaries and stored internally.

Without notebook users needing to take any action a so-called „re-ponse“ file is installed. With this information the notebook can access the configuration data, the security system is installed (incl. encryption) and the notebook configured. This process of an „unattended installation“ takes place in the background and without the user being disturbed in any way. A tool for the software distribution, as it is used in many organisations, facilitates this installation.

The only pre-condition for using it in combination with SafeGuard Easy is that the tool can execute a command on the local PC/Notebook with administrator rights. The success of this installation does not have to be observed live, as it can be tested and controlled by monitoring and status files. Afterwards, the employee receives his password and by entering these keys SafeGuard Easy is activated. From now on, only authorised employees can use the notebook.

The result

In the case of theft the thief cannot access the data stored on the notebook: he is not able to start the operating system and the hard disk is completely encrypted – sector by sector. If an employee forgets his password, he can request an unlocking code from his branch office using a secure challenge/response procedure, which will enable him to unlock the notebook. For this, it is not necessary to draw up organisational instructions or lay down complicated internal processes. SafeGuard® Easy proved to be a very sophisticated product with strong stability and a very low failure rate.

SafeGuard Easy

- SafeGuard Easy turns PCs and notebooks into electronic fortresses and in the case of loss or theft of a PC or notebook prevents the data stored on it being accessed by an unauthorized person – however ingenious the attempts to access may be.
- Due to the protection against unauthorized „booting“, secure authentication as well as complete encryption, the data stored on the hard disk and on external media are only legible for authorized persons.
- Fundamental protection of valuable and highly sensitive data (e.g. data of customers and employees, company strategies and take-overs) on PCs and above all on notebooks of the management.
- No additional administration required.
- Guarantees data security which cannot be de-activated through the possible faulty use by an employee.
- Enables migration between the Windows operating systems W9x/NT/2000/XP.
- Economic fundamental protection through low running costs as no servicing required and minimum training (no end-user training necessary!)

“Only after the roll-out and over a notebooks life span you will really know how expensive a security solution is.” reflects Rose responsible for ICT security at Syngenta. “Also regarding the total cost of ownership (TCO) aspects SafeGuard® Easy is unbeaten.”