Sphinx helps government enhance logical access with fingerprint authentication

For today's enterprise organization, it is critical to enhance security and control access to the company network, ensuring that the network and PCs can only be accessed by authorized users. A multi-factor authentication approach is an effective solution in this scenario. The case study below illustrates the flexibility of the Sphinx Enterprise software, as a multi-factor strong authentication solution which enables customers to meet their security needs.

The customer is a Hong Kong government agency which requires strong authentication for PC and network access. The key requirements include:

- Enhance Windows logon with two-factor authentication for Windows XP machines.
- Support multiple strong authentication methods incorporating contactless cards, smart cards, PKI, fingerprint, PIN.
- The fingerprint should only be stored on the smart card if using fingerprint authentication.
- Flexible, extensible, and able to adapt to new authentication requirements.
- Able to integrate with existing PKI/certificate infrastructure and use smart card to perform digital signature and encryption.

Solution Brief

The solution includes three components: Sphinx Enterprise software, HID Omnikey 7121 fingerprint and smart card reader, and contact based smart card.

Sphinx Enterprise   HID Omnikey 7121   Contact smart card

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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's fingerprint is enrolled with a fingerprint template (e.g., captures certain features of the fingerprint) and then stored on the smart card, which remains in the possession of the user.   During Windows logon, the user inserts the smart card into the Omnikey 7121 reader and swipes their finger on the Omnikey 7121 reader's fingerprint sensor.   The Sphinx solution determines if the fingerprint is matched correctly, then performs Windows logon if the user's identity was successfully authenticated.

In addition to authentication, 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 smartcard must be referenced for signing and encryption.

Solution Benefits

- Cost effective and maximum ROI. One smart card can be used for both fingerprint authentication and PKI usage.
- Sphinx Enterprise software's multiple authentication technologies give customer great flexibility in choosing the best authentication method for their environment.
- The Windows logon security is enhanced with simple fingerprint usage.
- Since the user fingerprint is not collected by the employer (e.g., the user fingerprint is stored on user's smart card), 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.

About Open Domain Sphinx Solutions

Open Domain Sphinx Solutions, Inc. is dedicated to helping customers make the best use of current card and IT technology, with the least amount of effort.   Our flagship product, the Sphinx Logon Manager software, enables card-secured computer access with a wide spectrum of card technologies, including contactless cards and contact smart cards.   The Sphinx software is used by corporate, healthcare, government, and educational institutions world-wide.   Close cooperation with strong IT and facility access partners ensures optimal ongoing effectiveness.

About HID Global

HID Global is the trusted source for secure identity solutions for millions of customers around the world. Recognized for robust quality, innovative designs and industry leadership, HID Global is the supplier of choice for OEMs, system integrators, and application developers serving a variety of markets.

About HID and Sphinx

Open Domain Sphinx Solutions is an HID Connect Partner.   Sphinx solutions support most of the card and logical access card reader technologies from HID, including proximity cards and readers, iClass cards and readers, contact smart cards and readers, and fingerprint readers.   For a list of compatible readers, please see:
http://www.odsphinx.com/web/prod_compatibleproducts.asp

When Open Domain Sphinx Solutions software is used in combination with HID card and reader technology, customers can be confident that they have chosen a market proven solution from two recognized providers, resulting in a powerful enhancement of logical and physical access security.

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