



“Because we have multiple login systems and many different login scenarios to support, **it is a relief that we can solve all our user authentication needs with the new platform** and be compliant to the strict regulations set forth by the law makers.”

MARTIN SCHIMMEL, SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR, DTU



CUSTOMER

DTU (Technical University of Denmark)



INDUSTRY

Education



CHALLENGE

To provide 1400 employees with secure access to a wide range of systems and applications, and to protect sensitive data processed by Computerome, the Danish national supercomputer



SYSTEMS PROTECTED

Citrix NetScaler, Cisco ASA VPN, SSH Gateway, Computerome (supercomputer)



SOLUTION

SMS PASSCODE Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)

DTU gets a technically sound remote-access solution

DTU is recognized internationally as a leading university in the areas of technology and the natural sciences and is known for its business-oriented approach, its focus on sustainability and its appealing study environment.

Leaving the hardware tokens behind

Today, DTU is ranked as one of the foremost technical universities in Europe. It continues to set new records in publishing, and it is known for its ability to transform research into new technologies via industry partnerships and assignments undertaken by its public sector consultancy. DTU's IT service supports a wide range of departments, university entities and affiliated companies who benefit from their modern IT setup and infrastructure.

Employee remote access from across Europe is enabled through a number of login systems, including Citrix, Cisco, and SSH. At first, the users accessing these systems were required to carry around hardware tokens for authentication when logging in. But the token-based setup was becoming increasingly time-consuming and frustrating for both users and the IT team managing the solution. Martin Schimmel, System Administrator at DTU, explains: “The hardware tokens were a huge overhead for system administration. With more than 1000 users, we constantly had tokens that needed to be replaced.”



Making life easier for IT

SMS PASSCODE Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) was identified as the ideal solution to support DTU's security requirements and the advantages have been clear.

"Life is much easier now that the tokens are gone, and we have seen significant cost savings by migrating to SMS PASSCODE. The tight integration to Microsoft Active Directory also makes it easy for us to manage and add users on the fly," Martin explains.

Securing access to "Computerome"

Since the initial implementation, the use of SMS PASSCODE has also been expanded to cover user authentication of around 400 scientists accessing DTU's super computer called Computerome. Computerome is currently listed as number 236 of the top 500 most powerful supercomputers in the world and is used to process large amounts of data for scientific research in medicine and biology. Given the fact that Computerome stores and processes patient data, it was vital for DTU to add multi-factor authentication protection in order to meet regulatory requirements around storing healthcare data. The Computerome users are stored in an OpenLDAP directory.

Martin concludes: "Because we have multiple login systems and many different login scenarios to support, it is a relief that we can solve all our user-authentication needs with the new platform and be compliant to the strict regulations set forth by the lawmakers".



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