



Qatargas secures corporate network access by implementing VASCO DIGIPASS and IDENTIKEY into its Citrix metaframe



CASE STUDY

User:
Qatargas

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Qatar

Industry:
Oil & Gas

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Qatargas pioneered the liquefied natural gas industry in Qatar. Today the company is realizing its vision to deliver LNG to customers around the globe from its facilities in Qatar. Currently the company is undergoing a rapid period of expansion with an estimated 42 million tones of export capacity to be online by the end of decade to markets in Europe, Asia and North America. With remote offices and on- and offshore plants in different locations, Qatargas was looking for a secure remote access solution allowing its employees and contractors worldwide to access its corporate network and business applications. By implementing IDENTIKEY server software together with DIGIPASS hardware authenticators and DIGIPASS for Mobile into its Citrix metaframe, the company is assured that its business critical applications and information cannot be accessed by unauthorized users.

Natural gas is increasingly becoming the fuel of choice for customers around the world due to its clean-burning and lower emission qualities. Liquefied natural gas (LNG) is a gas fuel cooled down to -161 degrees Centigrade. In its liquid state, the gas is reduced to approximately one-six hundredth of its volume, making it easier to be stored and transported safely and reliably to all corners of the globe.

Since 1984, Qatargas has pioneered the liquefied natural gas industry in Qatar and established itself as a leading player in the LNG industry. The company operates from two main locations in Qatar, an office in Japan, and has several onshore and offshore locations.

Citrix as a secure internet gateway

Since Qatargas operates at various locations around the globe and some of its employees travel frequently, a secured network infrastructure became a necessity. Addressing its growing concerns about data security and data integrity, Qatargas implemented Citrix Secure Gateway to provide secure Internet based access to its network and vital applications. The Citrix solution is a secure Internet gateway between Metaframe servers and ICA client workstations allowing Qatargas to deliver its applications across the Internet in a secured way; providing its employees and contractors secured access to the servers from outside the corporate network through a Citrix portal site. The Citrix Portal offers a single application – the desktop. Clicking on it will open a remote window that is actually a second Windows desktop running on a remote server and offering many of the same applications that run on the desktop of the user's own PC.

VASCO eliminates the weakest link in the security chain

In order to access the Citrix web portal, employees still need to logon. Exactly that logon procedure proves to be the weakest link. Hackers use many different tactics to compromise username and password combinations and therefore the company's



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network. Even complex passwords made up of a combination of capitals, letters and numbers can be easily retrieved with orchestrated attacks. Time after time, companies are victims of fraudsters' attacks because they lack the necessary security protocols to secure their internal network.

To enable remote network access without affecting the integrity of the computer systems and data, Qatargas realized that they needed to apply an extra security layer. The company contacted IT supplier and Value Added Distributor FVC to come up with a solution to secure remote access to its Citrix metaframe. FVC, together with reseller Qatar Datamation Systems quickly provided a structured and result oriented proof of concept enabling Qatargas to see a clear value and return on the solution. VASCO was recommended as they provide strong authentication solutions that allowed Qatargas to secure access to its business critical applications in combination with Citrix without dismantling the entire IT infrastructure. VASCO's solution received the 'Citrix ready' designation; its solutions have been tested and approved by Citrix.

DIGIPASS as single access point to corporate network

Qatargas chose to implement DIGIPASS® GO 6 in combination with the server software IDENTIKEY® to secure remote access to its corporate network. The DIGIPASS devices generate one-time passwords based on a time principle. Passwords can only be used once and expire automatically after 32 seconds. Fraudsters are hence no longer able to store retrieved password-username combinations for later use.

Remote users logon to the network with their one-time password generated by the DIGIPASS device. Once the server has validated this password, the user is authenticated into the Citrix Metaframe environment. Users at remote offices or LNG plants get to see the same desktop and applications as they would at the main office. The hardware device acts as a single access point into the corporate network and provides employees and contractors with a secure connection to the corporate network.

Mobile authentication for overseas offices

Besides DIGIPASS hardware authenticators, Qatargas also deployed mobile authentication. DIGIPASS for Mobile is a software solution offering strong authentication using a mobile device. The technology leverages existing mobile platforms and eliminates the need to distribute additional hardware or software to end-users, simplifying the deployment process and reducing costs. The authentication application is chip independent and installed directly on the mobile phone, circumventing extra charges and cell phone coverage limitations. Furthermore,



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VASCO's technology also offers synchronization between server and platform time taking daylight saving time changes into account. This means that DIGIPASS for Mobile will continue to be fully operational when traveling through different time zones; turning it into a true mobile solution that can be used anywhere, anytime. "We prefer to use software authentication devices whenever applicable to avoid the logistic challenges of delivering hardware devices to our overseas offices and plants", says Mohammed Abu-Nejim, Head of Data Networks at Qatargas. "We deploy DIGIPASS for Mobile to remote users who have Windows and Symbian phones or cell phones that are Java enabled."

High security, simple to manage

Implementation and roll-out of the server software and DIGIPASS authenticators through VASCO's Value Added Distributor FVC, went very smooth without any measured downtime. The company can still rely on FVC for after sales support and maintenance. The DIGIPASS/IDENTIKEY combination proves to be a success thanks to the remarkable user friendliness; cost-effectiveness and scalability. It allows employees to access the company's network anywhere at any time; resulting in a higher productivity. "The IDENTIKEY solution has an excellent high available design structure, an auto enrollment feature and is fully integrated with Windows Active Directory and Radius services", says Mohammed Abu-Nejim. "Together with IDENTIKEY's web based administrator interface, these features ensure that system administrators are able to work in a transparent and straightforward manner,"