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Case Study

Data protection as a competitive advantage

IT service provider digitronic and IT-Concepts Automotive implement two-factor authentication at automotive supplier Minda KTSN.

Suppliers and development partners are obliged to take special care in handling their customers' data. Those companies who can prove that they are protecting their IT systems from unauthorized access have a competitive advantage. Aside from data encryption, Minda KTSN Plastic Solutions GmbH & Co. KG uses this advantage in the form of two-factor authentication.

The products of Minda KTSN Plastic Solutions, a subsidiary of Indian Ashok Minda Group, can be found in numerous cars around the world. The automotive supplier with its headquarters in Pirna, Saxony, and other locations in Poland, Mexico and China develops and produces plastic components and technical assemblies for vehicle interiors. The company covers the entire process chain - from the first design draft to tool construction and production.

The external and internal communication required for this requires both secure transmission paths and secure access to stored data. "Especially the data exchange between our development department and the customer must be reliably protected. Logging on to the IT systems with a password that is changed every 90 days is no longer sufficient," says Alexander Pietschmann, responsible for corporate IT. He explains further: "We need access to our PCs and notebooks that is protected by a two-factor

authentication. For this task, digitronic computersysteme GmbH from Chemnitz was recommended to us. The company, together with its partner IT-Concepts Automotive, did a great job in advising us and competently helped us with the implementation of the suggested solution."

At Minda KTSN, a two-factor authentication was implemented, a solution that is based on two components: a personal PIN and, as a second factor, an RFID card. Alternatively, other tokens or biometric data like fingerprints would be possible as well. However, the automotive supplier deliberately opted for the system recommended by digitronic."With this option, we can regulate access control and time recording at the same time, and an alarm system is integrated as well. In the future, we also want to personalize the printing processes," explains Pietschmann.

Up until now, about 55 workspaces have been equipped with the new system, among them the whole research department with its 30 workspaces as well as particularly sensitive areas such as the HR and IT departments and all of the works council. The solution for which IT-Concepts Automotive prepared the documentation including the prototype guideline was tested and approved by a major customer of Minda KTSN, a German automobile manufacturer. This audit is also accepted by other car manufacturers. The goal is to equip all PCs and mobile devices in Pirna with two-factor authentication. "As our other facilities are also in need of a solution in that area, we want to implement it there as well", says the IT expert, hinting at future plans that will once again rely on the expertise of digitronic.

Matthias Kirchhoff, manager of digitronic, views the project, which was successfully executed with the help of IT-Concepts Automotive, as confirmation to follow the path the company has taken with the marketing of All-In-One compliance packages. The company will continue to combine the offered solutions with consulting and rollout support until the delivery of the fully functional installation. He adds: "Current and future customers will also benefit from the know-how of the two cooperating companies, as digitronic's manufacturing expertise ensures the efficient and user-friendly implementation of the requirements identified by IT-Concepts, particularly with regard to data integrity and confidentiality."

The IT developer and service provider was founded in Chemnitz in 1990 and develops software and systems for communication and IT security. Their focus lies on innovative software for the protection of personal and sensitive data. This enables secure and convenient logon to PC systems using two-factor authentication as well as encryption of data on network drives without restrictions when working with content in a team. The software meets the specific requirements of information security audits and tests and is therefore particularly applicable in the automotive industry. The company is a member of the German IT Security Association (Bundesverband IT-Sicherheit e.V.) (TeleTrusT) and bears the quality mark "IT-Security made in Germany". digitronic's All-In-One compliance packages received the Info Security PG's Global Excellence Award in Gold in San Francisco in April 2018, an award from Info Security Products Guide, the leading guide for information security research and consulting.

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