

A Pioneering employee badge project

IIIIII SEW-EURODRIVE updates its IT infrastructure with state of the art solutions



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■ The context

SEW-EURODRIVE is a world leader in drive technology and a pioneer in drive-based automation. The company was using multifunctional smart cards for computer login as well as for physical access control, time recognition and payment at the company restaurant.

■ The challenges

SEW-EURODRIVE saw the launch of Microsoft® Windows Vista® as an opportunity to modernize their IT system architecture and to put in place system components that were designed to work together.

Some of the difficulties of the legacy system were that certificates could not be renewed on-line and that it was necessary to manually synchronize Active Directory each time a smart card was issued.

Furthermore, there was a desire to move away from the constraints and costs of a proprietary smart card that required middleware to be installed on every workstation. Finally, it was becoming difficult to get certain hardware and software for Windows 2000.

Additionally, the new system had to interface to a VPN solution and offer a standardized smart card administration tool which would be made available at all the company's sites.

■ The solution

Once the company had settled on Windows Vista as their new Desktop OS, and decided to continue with an employee badge based on smart card technology, the other pieces of the puzzle quickly fell into place. The only smart cards that were supported "out of the box" by Windows Vista were Gemalto's .NET cards.



This support meant there was no middleware (driver) to install, thereby eliminating a source of cost (installation, support and maintenance of the middleware) and lost productivity.

■ Customer benefits

Switching to the new solution offered SEW-EURODRIVE a lot of quantitative and qualitative advantages:

• A single management interface

Microsoft ILM gave the company a single interface to issue certificates and then load them on to smart cards as part of the personalization process.

• Reduction in time needed for smart card issuance:

The fact that the Gemalto .NET was seamlessly supported by Microsoft ILM has meant a significant reduction in the time needed to issue a smart card. Furthermore, replication of the same issuance process on each site has meant that training of the IT staff and system support and maintenance have both been greatly simplified.

• Adding "hardware security"

In the case of the VPN solution, the Gemalto .NET card offers a secure place to store the user's credentials and notably the private key used for authentication.

• Built-in business processes:

Microsoft ILM and Gemalto.NET are already set up to deal with process issues like PIN reset or issuance of replacement or temporary cards.

■ Project implementation

Project implementation was very fast (3 months) considering it was necessary to build a new PKI, ensure co-existence with the previous system during a certain time, and implement new functionalities which were not available with the previous system.

■ The Future

Windows Vista is progressively being rolled out through the company. Every new PC/Notebook comes with Windows Vista and a Gemalto .NET smart card.



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