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Latest survey on the status quo of remote access security in the IT services, consulting, insurance, and utility industries

Remote Access Survey from TC TrustCenter: Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) is Gaining Ground

Hamburg, October 14, 2009 – According to this most recent survey, which has been commissioned by digital identity specialist TC TrustCenter, the combination of username and password remains to be the most commonly used authentication method for remote access. In the background, Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) is however making headway, showing real momentum as a means of granting remote access. In fact, the survey shows that 77% of German organisations use PKI as a preferred method for remote access security.

The survey, conducted by TC TrustCenter in August 2009, focuses on the handling of remote access security in German companies. Respondents included organisations from IT services, consulting, insurance, and utilities industries.

A key trend highlighted in the survey suggested that whilst the combination of username and password remains to be the most commonly used method of security for remote access, with 99% of respondents authenticating in this way, there is also an increasing use of digital certificates in the context of a PKI implementation. In fact, 77% of the interviewed companies already use a PKI within their organisation, and this is regularly applied instead of, or in conjunction with username/password for remote access.

The survey highlights that businesses see high-levels of security as a necessity when accessing data remotely. Other selection criteria which were depicted through the survey results as being essential to remote access security include low administrative overheads, access locking capabilities, and finally reasonably low training requirements. PKI users have been able to benefit from these functions as well as the ability to quickly and safely replace lost, defective or forgotten access tokens.

Although high levels of security were shown in the survey to be a primary concern, surprisingly, the majority of respondents reported that the business did not currently use strong access keys such as hardware tokens and Trusted Platform Modules (TPM). Instead, medium security methods such as digital keys and certificates proved more popular. Only 24% of respondents are currently using hardware tokens, and only 25% use TPM devices which are essentially crypto chips in a laptop which work like integrated smart card devices.

“The survey has shown that PKI is developing into a technology that has come of age and which is now a common feature of any modern IT workstation. The universal nature and the advanced integration of PKI systems with identity management systems, alongside the easy handling that comes with it, drives the increasing success of PKI, as is clearly indicated by the results of our survey.” explains Stephanie Willemsen, Director Partner Management & Marketing at TC

TrustCenter. "The current PKI trend also reinforces the idea that the security awareness in German companies has steadily improved over the past years."

The full survey is available from TC TrustCenter upon request.

About the survey:

The survey was conducted in August 2009 by the market research institute DT&P interNational on behalf of TC TrustCenter GmbH. Within the context of the survey, senior IT managers of a total of 75 Germany companies with more than 500 employees were interviewed on the topic of security in the remote access domain.

About TC TrustCenter

For more than 10 years TC TrustCenter provides world wide trust to digital communication between employees, clients, partners and suppliers. As one of the first Trustcenters we provide world wide trust to the internet and electronic B2B Business with our Managed Services. In Europe as well as in the US, TC TrustCenter has a broad range of project and industry experience regarding PKI, and has worked with a broad range of international customers.

The TC TrustCenter portfolio ranges from solutions for Phishing Protection, Security of Online Transactions and Electronic Invoicing as well as broader PKI solutions and Managed Security Services. Our On-Demand Digital Identity solutions are cost-efficient, highly secure and fast to implement.

TC TrustCenter is accredited according to the German Signature Act, European Signature Act, Identrust, SAFE, TÜVIT and SISAC.

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