

Universal UniMate Authentication System

Introduction

China Telecommunications Corporation (China Telecom) is an extra-large State-owned telecom operator in China, Global Partner of World Expo 2010 Shanghai, and was selected into the Top 500 Global Corporations for many consecutive years. China Telecom mainly provides the integrated information services including the fixed-line telephone, mobile service, Internet connection and applications services. By the end of 2009, China Telecom owns 194 million fixed-line telephone subscribers, 62.36 million mobile (CDMA) subscribers, and 61.75 million broadband customers. The total asset of China Telecom is 632.2 billion yuan, and there are over 670 thousands employees in total in China Telecom.

China Telecom was ratified as the Class-A Enterprise for four consecutive years. China Telecom was awarded as the "CDMA Global Operator Leadership" by CDG (CDMA Development Group). China Telecom was rated respectively as the "World Most Admired Enterprise", "Best Fixed-Line Telephone Company in Asia", "Best Telecom Company in China", "Most Potential Company in China", "Best Company in Telecom Business", "Best Managed Company", "Best Enterprise Governance" by the international famed magazines. In addition, China Telecom was awarded with the titles of the "Social Responsibility Model of the Significant Value Company" and the "Special Big Prize for the Chinese Enterprise Social Responsibility".

Challenges

Previously, the telecommunications company did not have a mobile authentication system in place. To meet the requirements of their new working pattern and online OA system on Android tablets, a secure method of authentication was needed to securely authenticate employees on mobile devices.

As a telecommunications company, numerous barriers have prevented employee application of mobile devices. With the extensive range of mobile devices and interfaces, drawbacks of static passwords and the lack of secure authentication alternatives, authenticating users on mobile devices securely have not been previously feasible.

CASE STUDY:

Universal UniMate Authentication System

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Solution

The product chosen to suit the requirements for the online OA system project was UniMate TRRS authenticator. Features which were reasons for choice include:

- TRRS port – for compatibility on both iOS and Android mobile devices
An important compatibility requirement for the project was not be restricted to a single interface or devices, and as such the two-factor authentication system allowed compatibility with a range of mobile devices, whether the platform be iOS or Android.
- Customised APIs, casing, PKI authentication Customisation with APIs and PKI provided the APIs to integrate UniMate with the authentication process, and tailor the employee authentication to the company's system. Customised casing provided brand-recognition on each UniMate device.
- ISO 7816 smart card operating system

BJ Telcom developed an app on iPhone and Android to meet requirements on their working pattern project. Considering the exchange of mobile devices between employees and the pitfalls of static passwords, an additional factor in authentication allowed each mobile device to be frequently assigned to different employees without risking possible authentication breaches. Lost mobile devices can also be replaced without risk in unauthorised access as certificates reside on the authentication device and not on the mobile app. Lastly, with authentication on the app integrating UniMate to verify the employees ID through API on the , the combined above features made UniMate a highly suitable product.

Conclusion

By the completion of the project, China Telecom had implemented and was running an authentication system that was able to securely authenticate employees on company mobile devices, with forward compatibility owing to UniMate's TRRS interface allowing high flexibility for current and future mobile devices.

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