GuardianEdge
T E C H N O L O G I E S

Leading Defense and Aerospace Contractor Protects Mission-Critical Data Using Full Hard Drive Encryption

Organization successfully deploys GuardianEdge solution to protect sensitive information and meet government standards for security and privacy

This case study details the experience of a global aerospace and defense contractor as they deployed full disk encryption software from GuardianEdge™ Technologies to secure sensitive data and provide the highest level of assurance to their government partners. The software solution, Encryption Plus® Hard Disk, was successfully deployed to thousands of laptop and desktop PCs around the globe.

The Client: Organization "X"

Organization "X" is a current GuardianEdge customer who wishes to remain nameless for purposes of security and confidentiality. As a leader in the U.S. defense and aerospace industry, Organization X is a global enterprise involved in researching, designing, manufacturing and integrating advanced technology solutions – including aerospace and defense systems, microelectronics and communications systems. Organization X delivers products through several independent business units in Europe and the Americas; however, using a central IT services to support all business units across the globe.

The need to ensure secrecy on corporate laptops

Organization X develops advanced weapons and communications systems for the United States government. Consequently, the organization needed strong security to protect any and all classified, sensitive and proprietary information stored in electronic form. Organization X maintains a large deployment of laptop PCs, which are vulnerable to theft and frequently leave the corporate security perimeter, so securing data stored on those devices was of utmost importance.

The IT operations unit at Organization X serves dozens of subsidiaries in more than 20 countries around the world. As such, they needed a security system that they could easily configure and deploy to remote locations, with the flexibility to meet a variety of export controls and language requirements. The system also had to be easy to maintain, with built-in features to minimize the cost of recovering lost passwords and maximize the ability to recover data from hard drives damaged in the field.

The Solution: Encryption Plus® Hard Disk

Encryption Plus Hard Disk delivers strong encryption and host-based access control for Windows-based desktop and laptop PCs, providing complete protection of all data on the hard drive, including applications, unused disk space the operation system itself. Once installed on the client, Encryption Plus Hard Disk requires users to authenticate themselves before the Windows operating system loads into memory. If a user fails to properly authenticate, Windows does not load and data remains encrypted.

This approach prevents so-called "offline" attacks in which an attacker may gain physical access to a computer in order to hack through the standard Windows authentication mechanism, which is highly vulnerable to brute-force and dictionary-based attacks. As a result, organizations that adopt Encryption Plus Hard Disk can ensure the integrity and confidentiality of sensitive information, even when the host computer has been stolen.

Why Organization X Chose Encryption Plus Hard Disk

After considering several competing solutions for full disk encryption, Organization X found that Encryption Plus Hard Disk best was the most effective solution available for their needs. Encryption Plus Hard Disk met all of Organization X's requirements for a full disk encryption solution and proved to be stronger and more cost-effective than the other solutions that Organization X considered.

Strong, government-certified security

Encryption Plus Hard Disk uses the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) algorithm with a 256-bit encryption key to protect data stored on the hard drive and passwords are never stored in any part of the hard drive. The software automatically protects 100% of the operating system, including all applications and data. What's more, Encryption Plus Hard Disk is a FIPS 140-2 and Common Criteria-certified product, giving customers the highest degree of assurance as to the design of the cryptographic libraries used within the product, as well as the integrity of the software itself.

Simple, cost-effective protection

User acceptance is the most critical – and most challenging – element of any successful security system. With Encryption Plus Hard Disk, users never have to change the way they work. Encryption Plus Hard Disk facilitates user acceptance with a silent encryption engine that runs in the background with minimal impact on user productivity and system performance. The software works with Single Sign-On in Windows and Novell networks, so users only have to log on once to access their computer and the protected data within.

Encryption Plus Hard Disk is also easy to manage. Administrators can be configure and deploy the software using enterprise technologies such as Tivoli, SMS and Zenworks. In addition, Encryption Plus Hard Disk does not require a database server for key storage, eliminating the hidden costs of database administration and facilitating secure use of data in unmanaged environments.

Robust recovery capabilities

Recovery is what really sets Encryption Plus Hard Disk apart from the competition. For simple, routine recovery of forgotten passwords, Encryption Plus Hard Disk provides a patented self-service password recovery feature called. Authenti-Check®. This powerful feature makes it fast and simple for users to recover their own passwords without assistance from the Help Desk. When users do require assistance to regain access to their data, Help Desk technicians can use the Web-based One-Time Password recovery feature, which presents users with a series of questions that they must correctly answer in order to authenticate their identity.

Data recovery is also an important feature, especially in situations where the host equipment is deployed to hazardous locations. Encryption Plus Hard Disk gives authorized administrators the ability to maximize information availability and business continuity, whether that means restoring access after an emergency power outage or recovering data from a damaged hard drive.

Implementing the GuardianEdge Solution

Once Organization X decided to implement Encryption Plus Hard Disk, GuardianEdge Professional Services sent a team of deployment specialists to review installation plans at the business-unit level, as well as to assist Organization X in the design and implementation of a pilot deployment. Once the pilot proved successful, GuardianEdge aided the distribution model at Organization X by developing content, download instructions and Best Practices for their corporate intranet site. Once these pieces were in place, security administrators in multiple business units were immediately able to download authorized, pre-configured user versions of Hard Disk for local installation.

Organization X originally deployed Encryption Plus Hard Disk to approximately 5,000 users companywide over a span of three months. In 2004, the client installed an additional 3,000 seats and implemented the Encryption Plus® Management Console, a server-based administrative tool for managing, updating and monitoring Encryption Plus Hard Disk users throughout the corporate network – even in high-risk locations such as Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2005, the client further expanded its deployment of Encryption Plus Hard Disk, bringing the total deployment to 13,000 laptops and desktops.

About GuardianEdge Technologies Inc.

GuardianEdge Technologies is a market leader in reducing the cost and complexity of enterprise data security. Customers around the world depend on GuardianEdge solutions to protect sensitive and proprietary information, to ensure compliance with rules for safeguarding privacy, and to enable secure enterprise mobility.

Headquartered in San Francisco, California, GuardianEdge Technologies has served an installed base of over a million active users for more than 10 years, at leading global corporate and governmental organizations, including Lockheed Martin Corp., Deutsche Bank AG and Humana Inc.

Full disk encryption software from GuardianEdge

Encryption Plus® Hard Disk

Used by leading corporate and governmental organizations around the world, Encryption Plus Hard Disk delivers full-volume encryption at the lowest total cost of ownership available. Simple to administer, deploy, maintain and use, Encryption Plus Hard Disk controls access to the Windows operating system and encrypts every sector of a computer hard drive, including temp files, system files and unused disk space.

Encryption Plus® Hard Disk Management Console

The Encryption Plus Management Console is a Web-based administrative interface that provides centralized, real-time management and auditing of Encryption Plus Hard Disk clients. Using the Encryption Plus Management Console, administrators gain the ability to manage, monitor and enforce an organization's security policies and its entire base of Encryption Plus Hard Disk users from a single point of control.

Contact Us Today

For more information about Encryption Plus Hard Disk and other software solutions from GuardianEdge, fill out our online query form or visit www.guardianedge.com today.