As a service provider for tens of thousands of Spain's citizens, SPEE needed a security solution for its public registry website that provided the following:

- Compliance with Spanish laws and regulations
- Easy to use for citizens while allowing simple issuance of security and certificates
- Secure storage of PKI certificates to protect citizen data
- Non-repudiation mechanisms
- Adaptable to larger scale installations

Solution

SPEE turned to reseller SIA Group for a secure PKI infrastructure solution. SIA Group recommended Thales for its vast experience and field-tested install base of hardware security modules within PKI infrastructures.

Founded in 1989, SIA Group is a European multinational corporation with Spanish origin, created to offer solutions in the Enterprise IT area. They have branch offices in Spain (Madrid, Barcelona) and Portugal (Lisboa, Oporto).

Thales Luna Network HSM Allows SPEE to Offer Over 50,000 Users Secure Online Benefit Transaction Processing While Meeting Compliance Laws.

Background

The Servicio Público de Empleo Estatal (SPEE), or Spanish Public Employment Service, is an autonomous agency of Spain's central government, whose primary functions are to manage employment, unemployment benefits, and employment subsidies to businesses, and to maintain and manage the public registry of contracts.

Business Challenge

One of the SPEE's key objectives was to reduce expenses for citizens and the government when inquiring about government administrative benefits and assistance. They knew providing online access to this information would reduce cost and add ease-of-use, but securing their substantial website would be challenging.

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“"We needed a solution that met the highest requirements for economic data in Spain, under the Spanish Organic Law of Personal Data Protection,” said Eugenio García, Chief Security Officer for SPEE. “Thales met every requirement—ease of use, legal validity, and security for key storage, issuance, and digital signatures. Thales’s customer support helped us to easily launch our system in three months.”"
SIA Group mixes technologic consulting, integrations systems, and managed services in four specialized business areas—Security, Storage, IT Management, and Mobility. The company also has strategic alliances with leading technology partners in the sector, and offers flexible adaptation to customer requirements.

After evaluating Luna Network HSM, SPEE quickly determined it was the optimal solution to secure the PKI infrastructure that its benefits website would be built upon.

Since SPEE chose a PKI system based on certificates, they needed a secure way to send, receive, and store certificates—ensuring the certificates were only delivered at the time of use. Luna HSMs offered the critical protection of one-time use certificates, providing the most secure way to store cryptographic keys than any other solution.

Luna HSM securely manages the identities of system users, and creates reliable and secure non-repudiation characteristics. These factors allowed SPEE to comply with regulations relating to the right for Spanish citizens to electronically access public administration services under Spain’s e-Government infrastructure. Thanks to Luna HSMs, the use of inconvenient certificates found in traditional card mechanisms was eliminated.

Additionally, the Luna Network HSM allowed for the digital signing of documents for easy document and certificate issuance, which expedited business processes, reduced operational costs, decreased waiting time for users signing onto the system, increased security through digital encryption, and met compliance requirements, stating that a digital signature has the same legal value as a written one.

The Conclusion

The SPEE website has been a great success, supporting over 50,000 users, and has reduced time and expenses, creating ROI more quickly than anticipated.

Citizens of Spain can easily access crucial information on unemployment and other benefits while remaining assured that everything is transacted securely and in compliance with all Spanish regulations. SPEE has saved substantial money through reduced time, paper, travel, and manpower by offering this secure online system.

Rewards

- Offer a website for Spanish citizens to securely and easily access crucial information on employment benefits and rights
- Comply with rigid Spanish regulations and laws for non-repudiation and secure certificates
- Securely store cryptographic keys so they are not vulnerable to exposure
- Digitally sign documents and certificates to reduce time and expenses while remaining secure and compliant

About SPEE

SPEE is an autonomous agency of the Spanish central government, whose primary functions are to manage employment, unemployment benefits, and employment subsidies to businesses, and to maintain and manage the public registry of contracts.

About Thales

The people you rely on to protect your privacy rely on Thales to protect their data. When it comes to data security, organizations are faced with an increasing number of decisive moments. Whether the moment is building an encryption strategy, moving to the cloud, or meeting compliance mandates, you can rely on Thales to secure your digital transformation.

Decisive technology for decisive moments.