CASE STUDY

The Nippon Registry Authentication Provides PKI-as-a-Service with Gemalto Certificate-based Authenticators

Nippon Registry Authentication verifies identities using digital certificates, and turned to Gemalto certificate-based authentication tokens to increase user’s flexibility to access valuable assets from multiple devices.

Background

Nippon Registry Authentication (Nippon RA) provides authentication infrastructure services using digital certificates. The organization integrates with high-value services and applications to verify users’ identities, providing organizations the confidence that only authorized individuals are able to access valuable resources.

Business Challenge

Nippon RA created a solution enabling cloud providers to secure access to cloud-based applications and assets using integrated PKI authentication. Cloud providers rely on Nippon RA to ensure their customers safely and securely authenticate to cloud services. By installing digital certificates on users’ devices, Nippon RA is able to verify a user’s identity and allow or deny access to protected cloud applications.

The rapid increase in multiple computers, mobile devices and smartphones caused cloud providers and the Nippon RA to rethink their PKI authentication strategy. To facilitate customers’ mobile computing, Nippon RA sought to develop a solution that enabled the same secure PKI infrastructure without tying users to only one device.

Challenge

Rapid adoption of mobile devices caused Nippon RA to reevaluate its PKI authentication system, which relied on stored digital certificates on one computer.

Solution

Gemalto’s authentication solutions store certificates on portable USB devices or software tokens so the certificate is validated from the Gemalto token, not the user’s computer.

Results

Nippon RA continues to offer cloud providers safe, secure authentication to cloud applications, while customers can securely access cloud-based assets from any computer or device.
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Gemalto provides us with a low-cost, safe and secure authentication infrastructure to support a variety of cloud services. It gives our PKI service more flexibility so that users can authenticate to cloud applications on any computer or device, at the office, or at home.

-Masashi Tadokoro, Executive of Sales

The Solution
Nippon RA evaluated several of the top authentication providers, including Feitian, Vasco, and Gemalto. After evaluating price and technical aspects, Nippon RA chose to work with Gemalto, a proven leader in the authentication industry and one of the few vendors to offer cloud-based as well as traditional hardware authentication solutions. By using Gemalto’s authentication solutions, customers’ digital certificates are stored on portable USB tokens, or in secure software, so that customers can access cloud applications from any computer or device.

Gemalto certificate-based authenticators are USB authentication devices that users can carry with them wherever they go. Digital credentials are securely stored and protected within a smartcard embedded in the USB token, ensuring that all cryptographic operations are carried out in a secure environment protected from malware. Gemalto’s certificate-based tokens support password management applications, as well as software development tools for seamless integration with third-party applications. Gemalto also offers a certificate-based software solution that stores the certificate in a virtual smartcard environment on a user’s endpoint devices. Unlike regular certificates, Gemalto’s solution ensures that the token cannot be copied or moved from one device to another.

The Benefits
Nippon RA’s NRA PKI solution is an innovative solution for cloud providers, and the first integrated authentication structure in the industry. Gemalto’s solutions provide many benefits to cloud providers, customers, as well as Nippon RA.

> Cost effective. Gemalto authentication provides the lowest total cost of ownership of any authentication solution on the market.

> Highly Portable. Customers can carry their USB token on a key ring so they can access applications and data in the cloud easily and securely from any device of their choosing, increasing efficiency and productivity.

> Strong Security. Gemalto’s smartcard authenticators provide secure storage for digital certificates and the secure environment required for PKI validation. By ensuring that certificates are stored on a separate authentication device, Nippon RA was able to eliminate risk associated with shared or stolen devices since previously, when certificates were stored locally on devices, anyone using that device had access to cloud applications.

Looking to the future, Nippon RA is already exploring more authentication solutions with Gemalto, including context-based authentication, and integrating its cloud and on-premise systems to further increase customers’ mobility and flexibility.

About Gemalto’s SafeNet Identity and Data Protection Solutions
Through its acquisition of SafeNet, Gemalto offers one of the most complete portfolios of enterprise security solutions in the world, enabling its customers to enjoy industry-leading protection of data, digital identities, payments and transactions – from the edge to the core. Gemalto’s newly expanded portfolio of SafeNet Identity and Data Protection solutions enables enterprises across many verticals, including major financial institutions and governments, to take a data-centric approach to security by utilizing innovative encryption methods, best-in-class crypto management techniques, and strong authentication and identity management solutions to protect what matters, where it matters. Through these solutions, Gemalto helps organizations achieve compliance with stringent data privacy regulations and ensure that sensitive corporate assets, customer information, and digital transactions are safe from exposure and manipulation in order to protect customer trust in an increasingly digital world.

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