THE UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
AT AUSTIN

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security to be free

CASE STUDY

The University of Texas at Austin Boosts Efficiency and Security with Gemalto HSMs

The Information Security Office at the University of Texas at Austin needed a robust hardware security module (HSM) that met stringent security demands and application requirements—and Gemalto SafeNet Luna SP platforms were up to the task.

The Organization

The University of Texas at Austin is a public, research-intensive institution with over 48,000 students. The flagship institution of the University of Texas system, this comprehensive university pursues a broad mission of undergraduate and graduate education, research, and service to society.

The Business Need

The University of Texas at Austin's IT team was large, with more than 450 staff members distributed across a range of departments and facilities. In serving their user communities of staff, educators, and students, IT staff members were wrestling with the demands of storing and sharing sensitive digital assets, such as encryption keys, passwords, passphrases, and personal identification numbers.

Previously, the various teams lacked an easy way to store and share these sensitive assets, which presented numerous challenges. For example, it became difficult to collaborate and stay on top of the various permissions as personnel responsibilities and staff changed. They were also vulnerable to the fact that if, for example, a professor had an encrypted laptop and lost the keys, there would not be any way to retrieve

Challenge
To support the demand for a central repository that would enable secure, efficient sharing of sensitive assets, the security team needed a robust HSM.

Solution
With Gemalto SafeNet Luna SP, the security team was able to leverage an HSM that delivered maximum security while flexibly supporting the organization's application.

Benefit
With the Luna-powered Stache system, personnel can better protect vital identities and assets, while fostering more efficient collaboration and support.

the assets. Further, this lack of centralized key storage also presented potential legal exposure. State law requires that encrypted assets be restorable, even in the event of the passing of the owner of those assets.

To meet these demands, the University of Texas at Austin Information Security Office set out to create a system that came to be known as Stache, which could provide secure backup and retrieval of sensitive data.

The Solution

To ensure Stache provided the highest levels of protection against compromise, the security team sought to leverage a hardware security module (HSM) that offered the most rigorous security features, and that was certified to be compliant with Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS 140-2) and Common Criteria (ISO/IEC15408). However, given the software architecture of Stache, they also needed an HSM that could accommodate code to be run within the protected environment.

To address the organization's security and architecture requirements, the security team chose Gemalto SafeNet Luna SP HSMs. Luna SP platforms uniquely addressed all the organization's key requirements. These platforms are FIPS and Common Criteria certified, and they enable the security team to run Java code within the HSM's secure environment, which was vital. Today, the university has a total of six Luna SP platforms deployed, three running in a high-availability architecture in production, and three that are used for testing.

The Benefits

With Luna SP and the Stache platform, the IT organization at the University of Texas at Austin was able to realize several key benefits. They can much more efficiently, securely, and effectively share sensitive digital assets across the large institution. Increasingly, across the board, users are consolidating their credentials on the Stache platform, which will serve the organization well, particularly operationally, by helping them mitigate the risk of lost productivity or data due to the loss of credentials. Further, this centralization will help the organization consistently stay in compliance with State laws concerning the recoverability of encrypted assets.

The Luna SP platform has effectively supported the evolution of the Stache system, after which today supports second factor capabilities using public key infrastructure (PKI), short message service (SMS) and email communications. In addition, the organization is in the process of rolling out new capabilities for group permissions management, which will make it more efficient to manage granular permissions across large and diverse sets of users. Given the success of the Stache platform, other campuses within the University of Texas system and across the country are seeking to leverage the solution.

> "Luna SP platforms were the only HSMs available that could accommodate our security requirements while, at the same time, supporting the application architecture we'd envisioned. With the Luna platform, we were able to enjoy the full potential we were looking to realize from the Stache platform."
>
> Cam Beasley, *Chief Information Security Officer,*
> *University of Texas at Austin*

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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