Implementing Strong Authentication for Office 365 with Gemalto SafeNet Authentication Service

Securing Access to Office 365

With Microsoft Office 365, organizations can move their familiar Office environments to the cloud. But unlike traditional enterprise productivity suites, Office 365 creates a new reality in which employees, whether in the office, at home, or on the road, are in effect accessing enterprise systems remotely. Without traditional access controls implemented via the enterprise network, the only protection afforded these online services are inherently weak, static passwords.

By implementing strong authentication for Office 365 with SafeNet Authentication Service by Gemalto, organizations can significantly mitigate the risk of unauthorized access and data breaches.

Using SafeNet Authentication Service with Office 365

SafeNet Authentication Service by Gemalto can be used as the trusted identity provider, extending Active Directory identities, and adding strong authentication to Office 365. Providing a wide range of authentication methods, including out-of-band (OOB), personal identification pattern, and both hardware- and software-based one-time password (OTP) form factors, SafeNet Authentication Service provides a sound balance between cost, convenience, and security. Two implementation options are available:

Strong authentication using the Gemalto AD FS Agent

Organizations that want to implement unified strong authentication policies for client and web-based applications can use Microsoft’s AD FS (Active Directory Federation Services) with the Gemalto AD FS Agent. The Gemalto AD FS Agent enables the implementation of strong authentication policies for cloud-based services such as Office 365, as well as other client and web-based applications that are supported with AD FS—enabling organizations to implement unified strong authentication policies and methods for their entire IT environment. The Gemalto AD FS Agent is available for AD FS 3.0, which was released with Windows Server 2012 R2.

Key Benefits

Secure access to Microsoft environments

- The Gemalto SafeNet authentication solutions portfolio allows centrally managed access policies to be enforced on Office 365 accounts from any endpoint device. This secures documents, applications, and intellectual property, as well as access to other browser and client-based applications supported by AD FS.

Organizational efficiencies

- The Gemalto AD FS pre-integrated solution streamlines the management and implementation of multi-factor authentication in Microsoft environments.

Deploys without changing existing architecture

- Support for a wide range of authentication methods lets organizations implement strong authentication without sacrificing existing investments, with the Gemalto SafeNet flexible authentication solutions portfolio available from the cloud or on-premises.

Extends strong authentication to the cloud

- Gemalto allows organizations to extend enterprise identities to the cloud, and enable strong authentication and single sign-on to multiple SaaS applications and web resources for a robust extensible authentication framework.
Strong Authentication Using AD FS and SafeNet Authentication Service as a SAML Identity Provider

Organizations that want to extend strong authentication to Office 365 and other browser-based applications have the option of using AD FS with SAML (Security Assertion Markup Language). With this option, Gemalto SafeNet Authentication Service is configured as a SAML 2.0 Identity Provider for AD FS when users log in to Office 365.

About SafeNet Authentication Service

SafeNet Authentication Service by Gemalto delivers fully automated, highly secure authentication-as-a-service, with flexible token options tailored to the unique needs of your organization—substantially reducing the total cost of operation. With no infrastructure required, SafeNet Authentication Service enables a quick migration to a multi-tier and multi-tenant cloud environment, offering:

- Automated workflows and token management
- Fully customizable interface
- Extensive self-service portals
- Embedded identity federation for securing access to SaaS and web-based applications
- Protection of all resources, including networks, VPNs, SaaS applications
- Numerous token options
- No infrastructure investments
- Quick deployment and setup

Technical Requirements

Strong authentication using the Gemalto AD FS Agent

- Microsoft Office 365
- Windows Server 2012 R2 with AD FS 3.0
- Gemalto AD FS Agent
- Deployment of one of the following:
  - SafeNet Authentication Service – Cloud Edition
  - SafeNet Authentication Service – Private Cloud Edition
    - Version 3.3.1 or later
- User accounts provisioned with software or hardware tokens

Strong authentication using AD FS and SAML

- Microsoft Office 365
- Windows Server with AD FS 2.0 or later
- Deployment of one of the following:
  - SafeNet Authentication Service – Cloud Edition
  - SafeNet Authentication Service – Private Cloud Edition
- User accounts provisioned with software or hardware tokens

Supported Authentication Methods

- One-time passwords (OTP)
- Out-of-band (OOB) via push authentication, SMS and email
- Pattern-based authentication

Available Form Factors

- Hardware tokens [credit card and key fob form factors]
- Bluetooth Smart PKI Readers
- Software tokens
- Phone-as-a-token

About Gemalto’s SafeNet Identity and Data Protection Solutions

Gemalto’s portfolio of Identity and Data Protection solutions 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 SafeNet Identity and Data Protection solutions enable 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.

Microsoft Partner
Gold Application Development

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