



SafeMove enables work flexibility for civil servants



BACKGROUND

SafeMove was adopted in the Government Information Management Unit at the beginning of 2006. "Our client ministry has already been a user of Birdstep's (formerly Secgo) VPN remote access solution for some time, and has been pleased with it. Subsequently, it was upgraded to SafeMove when the need for a more mobile, flexible and secure solution arose. Our clients can now have completely mobile use of their devices, regardless of time or location," says Kari Kekki, Director of the Government Information Management Unit. Civil servants travel a great deal nowadays and use their offices' communications and information systems from home and while on the move. SafeMove allows them flexible access to the systems they need while travelling, at home or even at their summer cottages.

SAFEMOVE AS A SERVICE PROVIDED BY GIMU

GIMU provides SafeMove as a service to its clients in accordance with their specific requirements. Each ministry and office decides independently which services and applications their employees are authorised to access remotely. SafeMove is currently in wide use in nine ministries and in the GIMU's client offices. The solution is widely used both in Finland and internationally. All users share the view that SafeMove enables the easy, secure use of services, 24/7 monitoring and maintenance while ensuring excellent usability.

QUICK FACTS

The Government Information Management Unit, or GIMU, employs 40 people. The ministries for whom GIMU provides services employ 5,000 civil servants. The Unit provides services for the entire Government, its 12 ministries and certain other government organisations.

The GIMU coordinates the development and maintenance of the Government's joint information systems and services. It is also responsible for the development, maintenance and usability of the Government's joint data and communications network.

SafeMove software solution

SafeMove enables the flexible and easy use of various information networks while simultaneously securing data traffic. In practice, the SafeMove user is able to move seamlessly between different networks, for example, from a 3G or @450 network to WLAN to Ethernet and back to a mobile network again. The solution also makes the use of WLAN HotSpots easy and secure.

SafeMove secures all connections, from end-device to internal network, without the need for separate application- or network-specific security solutions. A secure remote connection persists when roaming, applications remain in operation and there is no need to relog into the internal network. In addition to laptops, SafeMove is available for PDA devices and Nokia Smartphones.

SECURE, FLEXIBLE AND USER FRIENDLY

Civil servants access the desired information systems by authenticating their device with a civil service card and PIN code. SafeMove automatically retrieves the best possible data connection and the traffic is encrypted from the user's end-use device through to the internal network, regardless of where the device is located. In addition, SafeMove enables accessibility to end-user devices enabling virus and software updates for remote and mobile users even when they are outside the internal network. Connections are secured in compliance with international standards (IPsec, IKE, PKI).

The applications most frequently used remotely in government are email and time and contact information management systems, which are accessed by almost everyone on a daily basis. Another important application consists of documents which are prepared and transferred back and forth between specialists and decision-makers. Publication and internet services are also in frequent use. "Previously, it was necessary to log into the systems using complex one-off passwords, which sometimes caused problems. Nowadays, logging in is accomplished easily by means of a civil service card. Connections are secure and interruption free; at the same time the reliable use of the services remains uncompromised by interventions or malicious software. The most important criteria for the GIMU when developing its services are operational reliability and dependability as well as overall economic efficiency," says Kari Kekki.

AWARDED SOLUTION

The Government Information Management Unit's SafeMove-based secure mobile solution was the recipient of the international 2006 Mobile Impact™ Award in the Extended Enterprise Computing & Connectivity Category. The awards panel justified its choice in the following statement: "the Government Information Unit demonstrates state of the art for enterprise mobility with an innovative mobile deployment that balances technology investments with business objectives."

The Mobile Impact Awards are presented by the Mobile Enterprise Alliance (MEA), a global advocacy group promoting the business benefits of workforce mobility to enterprise end-users and decision-makers. The prestigious award is conferred for successful and innovative deployments of mobile enterprise solutions that successfully balance technology investments with business objectives.

Benefits of SafeMove for clients, case study – GIMU:

- Use of time becomes more efficient as the applications are always available, regardless of time or location. Traveling and waiting time can thus also be efficiently utilised.
- Strong user authentication and encrypted data connections (IPsec, IKE, PKI) ensure the secure use of systems.
- Use of SafeMove is easy and user friendly. Roaming is automatic and seamless without any need for user intervention (Mobile IP).
- Accessibility to end-user devices enables virus and software updates even when the user is outside the internal network.

BIRDSTEP TECHNOLOGY OY

Birdstep is in the business of increasing productivity with seamless and secure mobility products that meet the highest standards in the market. Our softwares are designed for outstanding performance in the most challenging environments and demanding applications for government agencies, banking and finance, healthcare, manufacturing and the military. Our support services have been awarded international certification for quality (ISO9001) and security (ISO27001). Birdstep Technology Oy is a subsidiary of a Birdstep Technology ASA, which has been listed on Oslo Stock Exchange since 2002.