



SafeMove makes work easier at the Mikkeli City Administration



Picture: SafeMove provided secure connections from a library bus to the Finnish election system, with the bus being one of the voting locations.

BACKGROUND

The directors and trustees at a municipal or city administration typically have a very mobile job. When traveling, a lot of time is spent at hotels, airports and trains, creating a need to put the time spent in waiting and traveling into good use. The scope of regional services in the Mikkeli region has expanded, creating more and more needs for secure mobility. It can already be foreseen that mobile use of business applications will grow significantly especially in the social sector.

An ever-increasing amount of workstations are laptops, which require mobile use at business trips and at home. Of all workstations at the city of Mikkeli's administration, about 500 are laptops, and nearly all are used wirelessly. A typical user is a very mobile user belonging to an ordinary domain. "Nowadays, one must have secure access to email regardless of time and place, which improves the efficiency of the entire organization. Decisions can be made more dynamically", says Mr. Jarmo Tiainen, CEO of Etelä-Savon tietohallinto Oy.

QUICK FACTS

Customer

Located at Mikkeli, Finland, Etelä-Savon tietohallinto Oy is a company that provides IT administration services for its owners. Currently, the company has 21 employees, with the number growing to 30 at the beginning of 2009. The company was established in 2007, during a time when municipality functions were being broadened with a more regional approach, thereby creating a need for a common regional IT management service provider.

The company provides IT management and technology services for the city of Mikkeli, and from January 2009 onwards, the company will provide IT management and support services for the Etelä-Savo Health Care District. The company represents its owners in all matters concerning IT systems and networks by providing the services required. For more information, please visit www.esth.fi.

Solution

In 2006, the city of Mikkeli selected SafeMove as the mobility solution for the city administration. Currently, there are over 500 users. Thanks to SafeMove, more and more mobile users have a secure real-time connection to their IT systems, at any place, at any time.

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.

CHALLENGES IN THE WORK ENVIRONMENT

Since mobile users have very different skill levels and requirements, the challenge was to find a flexible and easy-to-use solution, which could be used by anyone, not just IT professionals. The requirements also specified a minimal need for support for mobile users, centralized administration, and encryption of data traffic.

SOLUTION PILOTED AT THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

The administration of the city of Mikkeli gave its support to the SafeMove solution, and SafeMove was piloted in Mikkeli in the municipal elections in the fall 2005. SafeMove provided secure connections from a library bus to the Finnish election system, with the bus being one of the voting locations. The pilot received positive feedback as the library bus traveled around Mikkeli, bringing a voting location close to citizens.

SAFEMOVE MAKES MOBILE WORK EASIER

After the successful pilot, SafeMove was purchased as the data traffic solution for mobile users and small fixed locations at the city of Mikkeli administration. The service is provided by Etelä-Savon tietohallinto Oy. The company provides effective IT solutions which support the development of municipal functions. "Since the network used might be any network, depending on the location (hotel, home, Hot Spot), we must have the control of data security in our own hands. That is why we have SafeMove", says Jarmo Tiainen.

"The most important feature is session persistence across networks at the office, meeting room, and home. Connections are switched on automatically by location", describes Tiainen. "Furthermore, data security has improved, enabling us to use laptops anywhere, also in social work and health care. We will see an increase in the use of laptops especially due to SafeMove's ease of use", continues Tiainen.

Benefits provided by SafeMove:

- Use of real-time information makes decision making more dynamic
- Improved data security makes it possible to expand the solution also to environments which require a particularly strong data security.
- Time management is more effective, since applications are always available regardless of time and place.
- Automatic connecting and selection of fastest connection together with session persistence makes work considerably easier
- SafeMove's ease of use and user-friendliness make it an effective solution for all kinds of users

BIRDSTEP ENTERPRISE

Birdstep Enterprise provides SafeMove Mobile VPN software for laptops, PDA's and Nokia Smartphones. SafeMove solution is used in demanding environments such as finance, government, healthcare, military, manufacturing and operator networks.

Birdstep Enterprise is a business unit of Birdstep Technology ASA, which has been listed on Oslo Stock Exchange since 2002. Further information at www.birdstep.com.