Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority
Case Study

Power LogOn® used to Address Healthcare's HIPAA and HighTech Compliance

The Organization

Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority (NeMCMHA)

The Challenge

Compliance with HIPAA & HITECH, and User Convenience

Power LogOn Solution

NeMCMHA wanted:
- A solution for stronger, more complex password security and managment

- Multi-factor authentication

- Active Directory and VMware functionality

- Employee easy-of-use

The Results

- IT centralized password management

- HIPAA/HITECH multi-factor authentication compliance

- Transferable licenses & No subscription fees

- Log into multiple Windows' computers, applications, Internet & server networks with each having strong, unique user names & passwords

Northeast Michigan Community Mental Health Authority (NeMCMHA) is CARF accredited in 21 programs. NeMCMHA has a staff of approximately 450 full-time and part-time employees whose dedication facilitates, manages and provides services for the support and treatment of people with mental, emotional and developmental disabilities, including those whose disabilities co-occur with substance use.

Part of any healthcare service is the use of computers for patient health records, accounting, communications, remote connections and more. Frequently doctors, nurses and administrators manage their own user names and passwords to authenticate into the facility's servers. Security experts know IT centralized passwords are more secure than user managed ones. To protect digital information and stay ahead of the mandated HIPAA and HITECH laws, NeMCMHA started investigating different cyber access control solutions.

"There were four requirements we used to evaluate different cyber access solutions," stated Aaron Flick, Network Coordinator for NeMCMHA:
- Password security & management
- A multi-factor authentication into existing application.
- Active Directory and VMware compatibility.
- Employee ease-of-use

"We wanted a single card solution that would operate as a cyber access card," said Mr. Flick. "Access Smart's solution incorporates all these concerns and more. As for our computer system, our staff has both server and stand-alone based computers. We wanted an affordable single cyber access solution that would work in both environments ."

"A major selling point for us on the Power LogOn system was the integration with Active Directory and VMware," said Flick. "The configuration was fast and easy. The ability to transfer licenses to address employee turnover made Power LogOn very affordable. Access Smart's phenomenal customer support to get our existing applications working with Power LogOn sealed the deal."

Power LogOn Administrator works for NeMCMHA because it integrates into their network's Active Directory and VMware for secure and easy access of information. IT can assign complex passwords and change them as frequently as they want without the user having to remember, type or even know their network passwords.

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Access Smart®
raising security to the power of smart

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Power LogOn Features

⊠ Security

Strong Passwords: Unique, 20-character long passwords for every account, using any of the available 96 keyboard characters, in random order.

Phishing and Pharming Protection: Power LogOn stores the URL / path of the logon account. If the site's URL does not match, Power LogOn does _not_ release the password.

Keylogger Protection: Auto-start Internet Explorer or Application, password auto-form fill & auto-submit.

⊠ Convenience

Users never have to remember or type any log on user names or passwords. Now, organizations can implement strong password assignment policies with convenient password management for their employees.

⊠ Affordable

Software can be loaded onto an unlimited number of computers, because the user license is on the card not the software.

Power LogOn licenses are transferable and recyclable. No annual subscription or renewal fees.

Power LogOn works with a number of different card technologies (i.e. RFID, contact smart chips, magstripe, & bar code).

Plus, Power LogOn creates user groups so different user rights and privileges are easily created and managed by IT.

If the card is ever lost or stolen, the limited false PIN Monitoring feature protects all the logon data. When a user removes his or her card from the reader, the account is automatically locked, which prevents unauthorized access to patient records, hospital data, etc.

After server integration, NeMCMHA then needed Power LogOn to securely launch some desktop third-party applications like Netsmart, Microsoft Dynamics GP (formerly Microsoft Business Solutions–Great Plains), and different web apps. "With the flexibility of Power LogOn and the customer support supplied by Access Smart," said Flick, "we were able to quickly make all these integrations. They walked us through every step, and created custom scripts at no additional cost."

The time to learn, test and install Power LogOn took about two days. After getting approval to roll-out the system, NeMCMHA purchased the required smartcards, readers and licenses. "Because Power LogOn works with industry standards, we knew we're not going to be locked into proprietary components," commented Flick. "Each card was issued in a matter of minutes, employees self-enrolled, and pre-defined wizard scripts made card registration quick and efficient."

"Working with Access Smart has been outstanding," said Flick. "After helping us to determine how the system should be configured to meet our HIPAA/HITECH security needs, the convenience of installation and usage, the tech support and low cost, we would recommend Power LogOn to other healthcare institutions. We couldn't be happier with the outcome."

About Access Smart:
Founded in 2005 and headquartered in Ladera Ranch, California, Access Smart, LLC (a certified CA Small Business) offers information security through reliable user authentication prior to network access. Authentication, authorization and non-repudiation do not have to be cumbersome to be effective. That's why our products are designed using state-of-the-art security technologies while focusing on ease-of-use and low-cost-of-ownership.

Cybersecurity begins with network access authentication, and network access authentication begins with Power LogOn