biometric access control solution for the hospital information system

Hospitaller Order of St. John of God

At the hospital of the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God in Graz-Marschallgasse, Austria, Siemens IT Solutions and Services* has installed a biometric solution enabling the hospital staff to log on to the hospital information system (HIS) based on their fingerprints.

The project

The aim of the project was to provide protection for sensitive medical data in the context of access to the hospital information system on the one hand, and to simplify and speed up the ongoing change of users in day-to-day documentation work on the other hand. At the same time, the project laid the basis for genuine verifiability and traceability as required by law, since a fingerprint furnishes unambiguous proof of a person’s identity. Biometric security technologies are ideal when it comes to complying with strict security regulations. After the successful rollout in the Graz-based hospital, Siemens is going to install the solution in another seven hospitals and three nursing facilities run by the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God. With passwords a thing of the past, work there will become more comfortable, and security will improve for some 3,700 medical and nursing staff members.

Business challenges

When it comes to sensitive data such as patient information, the non-personalized access protection afforded by passwords has been shown to be insufficient. With this in mind, the hospital had been looking for a simple and secure solution for protecting access to the hospital information system on a personalized basis.

Solutions

After full rollout, the entire clinical staff – some 3,700 persons in eight hospitals and three nursing facilities – will use their fingerprints for authentication when accessing the central clinical documentation system, the medical charts (including medication), and the digital nursing documentation. In addition, it is also possible to log on to the operating system based on biometric authentication or protect other applications with the help of biometrics.

*) As of July 1st 2011, Siemens IT Solutions and Services is an Atos business.

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Entering data into the clinical documentation system is a legal requirement that results in an ongoing change in users at the PC workplaces in the various clinics. Biometric authentication makes this process faster, more secure, and more comfortable for staff members, saving them valuable time they need to attend to their patients.

From the IT administration perspective, too, the introduction of the biometric authentication system Siemens ID Center harbors massive savings potentials, as the high IT administration costs due to forgotten passwords are going to systematically decline.

**Our contribution**
- Support for the integration with the existing hospital information system
- Installation and taking live of Siemens ID Center V4.0
- Support for the initial enrollment of the staff’s fingerprints
- Administrator training
- Support throughout the 3-month piloting phase
- Transition from pilot operation to normal operation and support during rollout

**Benefits for the hospital**
- Reduced administrative effort for user management
- Higher security level in patient data handling
- IT cost savings
- Increased security (no spying out or disclosure of passwords)

**Benefits for the users**
- Staff have access to a variety of medical applications
- Easy and simple authentication with the hospital information system
- Ease of use for employees

For more information on biometrics, please visit: www.siemens.com/biometrics

“We tried out a few systems and then opted for Siemens ID Center because it offers reliable and secure protection for our patient data.”

**Michael Wiltschnigg** Head of IT, Hospitaller Order of St. John of God

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