



EADS Astrium

Profile

- EADS Astrium designs launchers and spacecraft.

Users

- 12,000 IT users in 5 countries: Germany, France, Spain, the Netherlands and the UK.
- Tens of industrial partners worldwide.

Challenges

- Securing IT access for employees and industrial partners.
- Automate application account management.

Benefits

- SSO for Astrium's employees worldwide.
- Help-desk costs significantly reduced.
- Secure single-login portal for partners.
- Account provisioning improves service levels.

The #1 European supplier of space systems launches IAM deployment with Evidian.

Securing application access in a high-tech company

Astrium (a subsidiary of EADS) is Europe's #1 provider of space technologies – and the worldwide #3. It builds the Ariane space launchers, and developed other high-profile projects such as the Mars Express and Huygens interplanetary probes and the Jules Verne vehicle that services the International Space Station.

As a supplier of high-tech space systems, EADS Astrium coordinates the work of tens of industrial partners across Europe. Therefore, the IT department manages conflicting objectives. First, it must ensure data confidentiality to maintain the company's competitive edge. Second, it must give partners and suppliers access to specific IT applications to efficiently share information.

For these reasons, EADS Astrium wanted to replace their manual process for granting application access with an integrated, end-to-end system. Creating and modifying an account should only take minutes, and departing employees should see their accounts automatically terminated.

And once an application account is available, employees and partners should access it painlessly, without having to remember tens of passwords.

"We wanted to simplify access right management. In addition, we wanted to reduce the cost of help-desk calls due to login problems", says Frédéric Babin, technical manager of EADS Astrium information security. "As we have both civilian and military activities, another challenge was to introduce role-based management so that a user can login with one of two identities, a civilian one and a military one, on the same PC".

End-to-end access management

EADS Astrium deployed Evidian Enterprise SSO internally, along with Evidian's provisioning system. On user's stations, Evidian's software provides single sign-on access to client/server and web applications, while Evidian User Provisioning automates account creation, management and removal.

In addition, two secure web portals were established, based on Evidian's Web Access Manager. With the first portal, partners access web resources with client-less SSO. The second portal is designed for EADS Astrium employees.

Integrated single sign-on and provisioning

For such a complete system, a major requirement was integration – the components should work together natively, without duplication of administration tasks.

After an exhaustive market study, Evidian was chosen for its ability to provide all needed features within a coherent, integrated environment. Evidian's IAM Suite provides secure SSO (both client-based and web-based) and provisioning, while sharing the same encrypted security data.

All components are managed from central stations, from account creation to employee SSO and web SSO. In just a few clicks, the 4 administrators define a security policy centrally, create and delete accounts, and grant and remove SSO access to applications. Account management is automated for several critical resources on Windows and Unix, including Microsoft Exchange, SAP and industrial applications.

Two portals (for employees and partners) are installed in a fault-tolerant configuration, on standard servers. If a server fails for any reason, another one will still serve page requests.

"In our field, security is critical. We knew we had to ensure high-end, personalized access control and network security. Evidian helped open interaction internally as well as with our global business community, while still ensuring the complete protection of our information assets."

Bernard Le Goaziou,
Chief security officer,
EADS Astrium.

Improving security and convenience

By centrally managing access, security is increased. The project also made end-users more efficient with single sign-on, and the administration workload for systems and application was reduced.

Over 7,000 employees access their stations and applications daily with secure SSO; extension to the rest of EADS Astrium's sites is underway. And partners have always-on access to EADS Astrium's web applications securely, with no need for an SSO client.

"Our internal audits have demonstrated that single sign-on and reinforced password management have significantly improved security" says Frédéric Babin. "This was a reason we decided to extend Evidian's system worldwide, including Germany. Accesses and administration events can be audited centrally, and we can quickly remove access rights if an incident were to occur."