"BIO-key provided us with an easy way to implement two factor authentication while maintaining roaming profiles for our users. Setup was smooth and BIO-Key worked with us to answer any questions or issues.

- Network Security Specialist, Collier County SOE

Challenge: What Inspired Change?

Our democratic process is what sets us apart as a nation. During several recent elections, security and fraud emerged as issues that need to be confronted head on in order to maintain the integrity of our election process. Due to Federal initiatives, such as the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Security Grant, several election boards are raising the bar on security and pioneering cybersecurity solutions that will soon become commonplace.

To increase online security and to add a second layer of authentication, the Collier County SOE began investigating options for a multifactor solution. Upon evaluating the security and cost of several options the organization focused on biometric authentication options including fingerprint, facial and iris.

Path to BIO-key

When researching the potential options for a multifactor authentication solution that would increase security, but not inhibit workflow or provide any unnecessary friction, the IT team relied upon several trusted online sources. It's not uncommon for IT leaders to visit forums where they can see product reviews and ask for input from fellow IT professionals. These forums provide the opportunity to gain expert or hands on advice from peers that are using or familiar with specific

products / solutions. In this case, after reviewing the comments and reviews on IT forums such as the Stack Exchange and Spice Works, BIO-key was confirmed to be the preferred option.

Solution

The initial objective was to identify a biometric authentication solution that operated with Windows Hello and offered level one sign-in to the device. After demoing BIO-key software, including ID Director for Windows, the Collier County SOE discovered that BIO-key could add a layer of biometric authentication to Active Directory, providing a broader utilization of biometric security across the entire organization. Ultimately the customer selected EcoID and PIV-PRO (FIPS compliant) fingerprint scanners along with ID Director for Windows to address their requirement for a strong multifactor authentication solution.

Outcome and ROI

The Collier County SOE met its objective of installing a multifactor authentication technology that reduced risk and increased security. The staff found fingerprint authentication to be easy and static-free and the solution was embraced across the entire organization. The password resets which were initially common, especially on Monday mornings, were greatly reduced. A surprise outcome was the organization's ability to authenticate remote and roving workers using ID Director, so now they had addressed a concern that wasn't even on their initial wish list.

When asked if BIO-key met the customers expectations the response was a resounding "YES!" Lastly and certainly noteworthy, when the customer was asked "Did this project cost more than you anticipated, about what you anticipated, or was it actually less than you anticipated spending?" The customers response was "less."

PortalGuard is a cybersecurity authentication package that delivers a full set of features in a single, fully customizable solution. PortalGuard provides single sign-on (SSO), self-service password reset (SSPR), two-factor authentication (2FA), and over 130 other features to ensure that each organization is equipped with the tools needed to face any authentication challenge.