



ERZBISTUM BAMBERG



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The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Bamberg ensures IT security with solution by Censornet and Proact.

Overview

Challenge

The diocese needed to ensure high security standards despite having to support a high number of internal end-users, extensive branching of the network, and large amounts of external and honorary staff.

Solution

Censornet MFA

Benefits

- Simple management
 - Half the cost compared to previous version
 - User friendly
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Founded in 1507, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Bamberg covers the entire district of Upper Franconia, large parts of Middle Franconia, as well as smaller areas in Lower Franconia and the Upper Palatinate. Of the 2 million people who live there, approximately 700,000 are members of the Roman Catholic Church. The archdiocese itself employs around 7,000 staff at 650 locations. The central IT department has to support in excess of 3,500 computer work stations.

The challenge

The large number of computers and extensive branching of the network pose a considerable security challenge to the IT staff of the archdiocese. In light of the high number of external employees who have to be supported, of whom many are older, honorary employees, remote access to the central network in particular must be controlled and secured.

In the past it was common for employees to request assistance for network access problems within their circle of relatives or friends. This led to password breaches and security being highly compromised. Given that weak or stolen passwords are a primary gateway for cyber criminals, the need for a secure authentication solution became clearly apparent.

For this reason, the archdiocese was an early adopter of solutions that bring external access under control. First the archdiocese adopted RSA token, a solution that was later marketed under the name McAfee OTP.

“Our goal was to combine the best possible security with an easy login process. This is because we have to support older people, who did not grow up with computers, so it is important that there are no hurdles to access.”

Johannes Wagner,
System Administrator and Project Lead,
The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Bamberg

How we helped

Johannes Wagner, System Administrator at the archdiocese, explains: “Our goal was to combine the best possible security with an easy login process. As we have to support older people who did not grow up with computers, it is important that there are no hurdles to access. At the same time, security should not suffer. We also need to make sure that IT staff should not be overburdened with unnecessary support requests.”

With these factors in mind, Proact was selected to conduct an extensive evaluation of multi-factor authentication from Censornet MFA. With Proact’s security specialists on-board, the subsequent installation went off without a hitch. After a kickoff, the IT department at the archdiocese completed the project quickly.

Now it’s possible to efficiently secure external access to data and applications, and the solution also meets user demands for a simple login process. If an archdiocese employee wants to log into the company network, multiple identification factors are used. After this, a real-time code is created and sent to the employee’s smartphone.

“The use of mobile phone notifications has been received well; hardly any users have experienced problems. With this said, the support available to employees has moved beyond the IT department, removing considerable burdens. This is also important because honorary employees of the archdiocese are often active on the weekend or in the evening,” concludes Johannes Wagner.

The benefits



Half the cost

In comparison to the previous version, prices have halved.



Simple management

Intuitive administration makes the solution easy-to-use.



Highly secure

Enhanced data protection via multi-factor authentication.



User friendly

Various authentication options, including smartphone codes, have been well received.

About Proact

Proact is Europe’s leading independent data centre and cloud services provider. By delivering flexible, accessible and secure IT solutions and services, we help companies and authorities reduce risk and costs, whilst increasing agility, productivity and efficiency. We’ve completed over 5,000 successful projects around the world, have more than 3,500 customers and currently manage in excess of 100 petabytes of information in the cloud.

We employ over 800 people in 15 countries across Europe and North America. Founded in 1994, our parent company, Proact IT Group AB (publ), was listed on Nasdaq Stockholm in 1999 (under the symbol PACT).

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