

A T O M W I D E

USO-OTP

News stories, throughout 2008 in particular, have highlighted the importance of keeping personal data secure, not only within the Government and its departments, but also throughout the public sector.

Within the UK education environment, a number of relevant Becta documents were released in Autumn 2008 and, with these in mind, Atomwide's One Time Password (OTP) solution reached a point of release in almost perfect concert.

USO-OTP features:

- Second Factor Authentication provides an effective additional level of protection for existing systems that controls access to sensitive data without requiring a new security infrastructure
- Compact and convenient keyring tag
- SMS 'soft tag' option delivers multiple instance rolling code sequence to a USO account holder's pre-registered mobile phone
- Supports access to a range of USO/ Shibboleth services, including the Atomwide USO Support Site, and USO-FX Secure File eXchange service



Atomwide OTP Second Factor Authentication adds an additional security layer to USO, which can be applied to specific services that handle or otherwise grant access to particularly sensitive data, or to services that carry additional risk to network security or personal data when in use.

OTP requests are automatically presented to the user during the USO login process, wherever the service being requested has been protected in this way. The whole site may be protected, or OTP may be applied only to data or services restricted to a certain user status, in which case the request will be made in the context of the person logging in.

The adoption of OTP protection for key services and resources reflects the importance of good data handling and security practices. By enforcing OTP authentication, users gain increased awareness of the sensitivity of certain information that they handle, and the responsibility which they have for keeping that information safe. The value of OTP technology will only increase as even more services that handle personal data make the transition from paper to electronic processing and storage.

USO-OTP features

- Complies with Becta good practice guidelines on Information Handling and Data Security*
- Simple tag registration procedure
- Secure procedure to cancel / replace lost or damaged tags
- Transitions from key ring to 'soft tags' or vice versa possible via Atomwide Service Desk
- Long battery life and no maintenance required
- OTP security will be extended to a wide range of current and future Atomwide services, wherever appropriate
- Available to all USO users, from LA-level 'Super User' to school staff, students and parents

OTP services can be provided via two methodologies:

The first is a small keyring-sized physical tag with an LCD readout, with the latest available code presented at the push of a button. The tag has a life expectancy of at least two to three years, and is maintenance-free.

The second is using a text message sent to a mobile phone registered to the user's USO account. It is anticipated that SMS soft tags will be most suited to very occasional users of OTP-secured services.



*http://schools.becta.org.uk/upload-dir/downloads/information_handling.doc

Specifications are subject to change. E&OE. Revision 1

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