

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust upgrades to secure access with Pulse Secure and reduces costs and complexity

Summary

Company: East Sussex Healthcare
NHS Trust

Industry: Healthcare

Challenges:

- Protecting sensitive medical data
- Improving productivity with the use of software based administrative systems while protecting sensitive medical data
- Streamlining secure access in a cost effective way to accommodate BYOD
- Simplifying two factor authentication

Network Solution:

- Pulse Secure 5000 series appliances
- Pulse Connect Secure (SSL-VPN)

Results:

- Active device scanning ensures that devices are up-to-date with correct patches before gaining access to data and applications
- Simplified two factor authentication which balances cost and flexibility
- Seamless and secure access for guests and existing users

Serving a community of approximately 525,000 people across East Sussex, the Trust is one of the largest organizations in the county employing over 6,000 dedicated staff with an annual turnover of £365 million. With increased use of information technology systems, the Trust has seen a steady rise in request for secure remote access.

Selection Criteria

In common with many healthcare providers, the growing use of software based administrative and clinical systems have increased the demand for more flexible secure access technologies to improve productivity while protecting sensitive medical data. With a growing number of devices and requirements for more remote access, many NHS Trusts in particular are looking at ways to streamline secure access while making cost and efficiency savings.

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust is an example of an organization going through this process with a legacy secure access solution using a growing number of physical tokens along with an incumbent managed service provider that was starting to become less appropriate for its needs. The use of physical two factor authentication tokens was both expensive in terms of hardware and licensing costs as well as more complex to manage when dealing with on-boarding new staff and updating settings in the event tokens were damaged, lost or stolen.

“We did not feel that our legacy solution and managed service was able to address our growing secure access requirements,” explains Dan Lloyd, senior infrastructure engineer at East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust, “In addition, it was assessed that an upgrade would allow us to make considerable saving in ongoing charges along with use of more self-service tools for user on-boarding and maintenance that would provide additional cost savings in terms of management time without compromising security.”

Solution

The IT department began evaluating a number of options and approached Pulse Secure, the vendor of its preferred VPN solution who recommended a number of partners with suitable skills, “We had an initial conversation with ANSecurity and it was clear that they had the right set of skills and had successfully deployed similar solutions at other NHS Trusts,” explains Lloyd.

The Trust approached ANSecurity for guidance on developing a new secure access solution. Working in partnership using ANSecurity’s “co-driver” approach, the Trust’s IT department and

teams from ANSecurity managed different aspects of the end to end solution including the design phase, implementation with additional steps such as failover testing, configuration management, bespoke training to support in the adherence to NHS security compliance requirements.

The project included upgrading its VPN infrastructure to Pulse Secure 'Connect Secure' 5000 series appliances running in an active/active high availability implementation to cope with a larger number of users accessing services using a wider range of devices.

Results

This upgrade included the enablement of a number of secure self-service tools to simplify access for guests along with easier moves, adds and changes for existing users. The new solution uses active device scanning prior to connection to the Trust's network to ensure that devices have the correct updates and patches before they are given access to sensitive applications.

A major benefit has been achieved with its two factor authentication upgrade. ANSecurity put forward a number of options including different types of on-premise and cloud based service. Based on a balance between flexibility and cost, the Trust selected a solution from Swivel which includes options to use a smartphone based App to reduce overheads associated with handling physical two factor authentication tokens.

Across the course of the project, the Trust's IT department shadowed implementation specialists from ANSecurity to gain valuable practical training. At the latter stages of the project, ANSecurity created a set of detailed solution documentation and provided a few Q&A sessions to resolve any outstanding questions.

"The project has delivered against our expectations and we estimate that it will achieve cost savings of around 30% compared to our legacy solution in respect to our secure access requirements," says Lloyd, "ANSecurity has been with us across every step of the process and provided us with expert guidance and practical support and the end result is a securer and easier to manage environment that is able to scale in line with our needs."

About ANSecurity

ANSecurity is a specialist in securing networks and protecting data that helps some of the largest organizations in the UK and global brands to reduce risk and simplify operational management. In fact, the 10 largest ANSecurity clients have aggregate annual turnover in excess of £780 billion, employ over 779,000 staff and include top three players in the fields of financial services, retail and logistics. Public sector customers include local and central government, schools and colleges, police forces and the NHS.

ANSecurity is made up of subject matter experts that are focused on solutions and not just specific brands. This independence is maintained by ongoing certification and accreditation with over 32 leaders in secure information technologies including market stalwarts and innovative start-ups.

But our ethos recognises that technology by itself is not enough to create world class security processes that reduce risk. As such we offer consulting services to help our customers architect mature security methodologies and educational services to help them develop the skills needed to strengthen security from within.

As we celebrate our 13th year of double digit growth, ANSecurity will continue to build both point and end-to-end solutions that protect our customers' networks and businesses while continually expanding our knowledge to meet the evolving IT security challenge. To learn more, visit www.ANSecurity.com.

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