



PSE S.A

Electricity company uses AppGate® to secure their SAP/ERP environment and other critical systems



QUICK FACTS

Organization

- Polskie Sieci Elektroenergetyczne (PSE S.A.) is the transmission system operator for Poland, responsible for meeting the country's domestic and cross-border demands for electricity

Challenges

- A complex business environment requires secure access for employees, electricity companies/traders, contractors and 3rd party suppliers to PSE systems and resources
- Necessity to protect the company's mission critical systems and sensitive information being handled on the electricity market
- Maintaining continuity of service in a 24/7 operation running SCADA & EMS applications

Solution

- A very agile, secure and stable network access control solution for the professional and demanding environment at PSE S.A.

Benefits

- Precise control to network resources
- Strong Two-Factor Authentication
- Authorization based on real-time user and device context
- Persistent Encryption ensuring privacy

Background

PSE S.A. is the Transmission System Operator for Poland, responsible for meeting the country's domestic and cross-border demands for electricity. The company's responsibilities include the security of the national electricity supply as well as managing and developing the extensive network of power transmission lines and substations across Poland. In addition, PSE S.A. manages cross-border connections and operates the power market "balancing mechanism" which entails buying, selling and balancing energy in real-time to effectively balance power flows in the transmission system.

The complex nature of the business means that many user groups need access to PSE S.A.'s systems including their implementation of SAP: employees, electricity companies/traders, contractors and third-party suppliers all require different access rights. The business has committed all key business functional resources and information to a central SAP/ERP platform. This is essential for sharing data across the organization, but it is a risk factor should any malicious user gain access. To protect the company's mission critical systems and protect the sensitive information being handled on the electricity market, PSE S.A. needed a powerful yet flexible network access platform. The company turned to Cryptzone for the solution.



Requirements

Access control for a wide range of user groups:

PSE needed to prevent all access to protected resources and at the same time easily provision access for a large number of users with diverse requirements. Administrators needed to be able to define many individual roles quickly and easily, and have precise control over individual access rights. For example electricity market players submitting bids to buy/sell electricity; employees using or supporting central control systems; employees needing access to mail and office applications; third-party suppliers providing online remote system support and maintenance.

Strong user authentication and encryption:

Unauthorized access to some areas of the network could have potentially catastrophic results: from manipulation of the energy markets to control of substations leading to blackouts across the country.

Therefore all communications need to be encrypted, and strong two-factor authentication required when people are accessing protected critical systems and applications.

24/7 access: "We needed secure access 24/7", says Tomasz Szudejko, Deputy Director of Department of Operator Services, PSE S.A.. "SCADA and EMS applications are working 24 hours a day. No downtime is allowed so it is important for our employees at home or after hours to be able to log in and fix any problems - and to be able to do it in a secure way."

The Solution

PSE S.A. selected Cryptzone's AppGate solution as it met the full set of requirements, combining strong two-factor authentication, authorization, encryption and access control in one comprehensive solution.

AppGate is a distributed, dynamic and secure access platform delivering business agility without compromising security. It draws on user context to dynamically create a network *segment of one* that's tailored for each user session and hides all network resources - servers, services, and applications - except those that the user is authorized to see. Making the rest of the network invisible enables enterprises to simplify their security infrastructure, while granting access with confidence. AppGate provides real-time user-centric access, enforces the principle of least privilege, and allows unprecedented business agility and availability without compromising the integrity of security of the protected resources. AppGate is a mature, enterprise-ready platform enabling production-ready deployment.

AppGate increases security, reliability, and availability, enabling enterprises to achieve better profitability and efficiencies - fine-grained, identity-centric access control enables maximum agility and productivity for the business. Superior integrations simplify the security workflow within enterprises, for example, seamless integration with SIEM and IDP systems build bridges among security tools. The result is improved security and more efficient compliance reporting.

In addition AppGate can automatically configure machines that have never connected to the PSE S.A. network before. So if an external trader or supplier uses a different PC, the client is provisioned and configured without having to wait for an administrator's input.

Tomasz Szudejko says "We work very closely with the AppGate team and have found them to be very responsive, for instance when we have needed them to develop additional functionality. We think it's a very flexible, powerful and stable system for the professional and demanding environment. So we would be happy to recommend it."

Conclusion

Following the successful initial implementation of AppGate at PSE S.A., the organization has adopted AppGate to provide fine-grained *segment of one* access to their ERP/SAP solution. Other areas of the business, including branch offices, that need access to data exchange, mail and other applications, are also using AppGate.

About Cryptzone

Cryptzone reduces the enterprise attack surface by 99% with its secure network access solutions. Using a distributed, scalable and highly available Software-Defined Perimeter model, Cryptzone protects applications and content from internal and external threats while significantly lowering costs. In cloud environments including AWS and Azure, Cryptzone provides user access control, increases operational agility and improves the ability to meet regulatory and compliance standards. More than 450 companies rely on Cryptzone to secure their network and data. For more information visit www.cryptzone.com.

The AppGate system is relatively easy to use but the key issue is that it is very powerful. It is possible to define so many different profiles for different people with very different needs.

We couldn't find any other system that allows us to define such a variety of different profiles for all our different users."

- Tomaz Szudejko

Deputy Director of Department of Operator Services, PSE S.A.

