

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE STAYS AT THE FOREFRONT OF MOBILIZATION WITH ACRONIS ACCESS

Acronis



CLIENT:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) works to support the American agricultural economy to strengthen rural communities; to protect and conserve America's natural resources; and to provide a safe, sufficient, and nutritious food supply for the American people.

The USDA is composed of 17 separate agencies with an additional 17 offices that support research and development, marketing, safety, economic assistance, conservation, forest management and many other services across the US and foreign markets.

CHALLENGE:

With the new era of mobile computing, smartphones and tablets, wireless communications and cloud services, the USDA sought to take advantage of a mobilized workforce and the blurring lines between personal and corporate computing resources. However, to utilize these technical trends, the agency needed to construct and execute a mobile strategy, combining device management, application delivery, and Bring-Your-Own-Device (BYOD) concepts while improving IT insight, retaining control, and cutting costs. This initiative needed to deliver a "seamless" user experience to significantly increase the speed, flexibility, and agility with which the government workforce could respond and deliver value to the public while also maintaining full security to meet agency requirements. Specifically, they needed to increase project collaboration and give field workers access to documents and forms while they aren't on the network to efficiently receive input with customers.

Organization:

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Environment:

Mobilization of up to 100,000 USDA iOS and Android devices across the USA

Key Challenges:

Need for a mobile file management solution that:

- Enables remote iOS and Android users to securely access PDF and Office® files and Windows® and Linux® file folders in USDA enterprise networks
- Fulfills Federal security policies including FIPS 140-2 encryption for sensitive data at rest and in-transit
- Allows users to locally store as well as edit Office documents and annotate PDF files
- Provides access to on-premise as well as Office 365™ SharePoint® document libraries
- Tightly integrates with MobileIron® MDM

Solution:

Acronis® Access

Benefits:

- Single sign-on to securely access all USDA on and off-premise content while leveraging existing Active Directory® stores
- Single solution for both iOS and Android devices which minimizes training and compatibility issues to simplify administrative activities

Tight integration with MobileIron reducing deployment and management costs while maximizing policy flexibility.

SOLUTION:

ITS, International Technology Services, the organization responsible for managing mobile devices within USDA issued a Request For Proposals (RFP) to identify a Mobile Device Management and Mobile Application Management solution. ITS realized that a complete and integrated solution with all the features and functions requested had to consist of products from multiple vendors. To develop a successful program, they had to select integration and architecture services that allowed the vendor products to work seamlessly with each other and in the USDA environment.

For their MDM, the USDA selected DMI, Inc., a leading mobility integrator offering products from vendors including MobileIron. As a content file management and sharing solution, DMI evaluated numerous products including Accellion, Airwatch® Secure Content Locker™, and others but summarily dismissed them because they did not support the claims-based authentication for Office 365 SharePoint, full Office editing and FIPS 140-2 validated cryptography. Finally, after careful evaluation, DMI chose Acronis Access.

"DMI integrated Acronis Access into the USDA Secure Container solution and found it to be a great fit for USDA needs. It gives the users the ability to securely create and edit office documents while providing a bi-directional sync with SharePoint for collaboration. Additionally, Acronis Access has the ability to share information with the other DMI solution components on various mobile device platforms. Now the users can sync their documents while on the network and continue to work when there is no network. This all comes from a single app that DMI can manage via application management policy."

Kathleen Urbine, DMI

Senior Vice President, Enterprise Solutions Group.

Security is Essential

Acronis Access supports multiple levels of encryption for data at rest and data in-transit. It uses Apple's FIPS 140-2 validated crypto libraries to enhance its own application level security. It leverages the USDA's enterprise Active Directory and has a powerful policy engine that enables agency administrators to enforce client policies as well as data policies.

USDA customers can be confident that while user productivity in collaboration is increased data security is not compromised.

Full Office Editing with Powerful Digital Rights Management

The ability to access Office documents without leaving the security of the Acronis Access container gives USDA confidence that their sensitive data will not end up in the wrong hands. Acronis Access allows administrators to not only access and edit their Office documents, but also control which applications gain access to the retrieved or stored data as well as what users are allowed to do with the data (copy and paste, print, email, etc.).

Access to On-Premise and Off-Premise SharePoint

A critical element of the solution was that Acronis Access allowed users to access both SharePoint sites that were located in the USDA internal network as well as external SharePoint document libraries such as Office 365 SharePoint. This benefits USDA in that users can perform single sign-on, authenticate using existing credentials to the corporate Active Directory and using Claims-Based authentication they can access all of their off-premise SharePoint document libraries from a single application and without the need for unnecessary steps.



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