

Sig-Tec® software and BIO-key® Deliver Advanced Biometric Security Solution to Ohio County Law Enforcement Agency

Mahoning County Sheriff's Office Replaces Passwords with Fingerprint Biometrics for Access to IT Systems

Chanhassen, MN and Wall, NJ October 6th, 2008 – Sig-Tec a leader in Identity and Access Management Software solutions with partner BIO-key International Inc. (OTC Bulletin Board: BKYI), a leader in finger-based biometric identification and wireless public safety solutions, announced today the successful deployment of a fingerprint biometrics-based identity and access management system at the Mahoning County (OH) Sheriff's Office. The Mahoning agency is one of the first in the nation to use fingerprint biometrics instead of passwords to secure computer workstations and the software applications and databases that reside on them.

With Sig-Tec's identity and access management (IdAM) software solution for Strong Authentication (SPD) and password management (AppStarter Single Sign On) integrated with BIO-key's Vector Segment Technology™ (VST) toolset for fingerprint biometrics capture and verification, authorized staff can access the department's network and applications quickly and securely with the touch of their finger.



Administrators faced with the challenge of reducing IT costs utilize this biometric solution to reduce help desk workload, eliminating the need to handle forgotten passwords and password resets. Additionally this solution is more secure than conventional passwords. It is preferred by users since it is more convenient for managing a multitude of complex passwords that are required to change in order to satisfy IT security requirements. Biometric authentication also removes the possibility of passwords being inappropriately shared, forgotten or stolen.

In the first deployment phase, the enhanced authentication process is being used within Mahoning County's correctional facilities, where secure access to systems and data is especially critical. More than 300 enrolled correctional officers and civilian staff now use fingerprint-based log on to access any workstation within the 13 building complex.

“The solution was amazingly quick to install and configure,” reported Charles VanDyke, Deputy Officer. “Sig-Tec's project management and support team led by Paul Kobs, together with my staff, completed the job remotely within about 8 hours.”

Sig-Tec's [Single Private Desktop](#) (SPD) and [AppStarter](#) software products secure the workstation and allow for biometric authentication for network and application access. The biometric credentials are captured at enrollment with BIO-key's patented VST identification software. Because VST stores each user's fingerprint as a mathematical template, the user's fingerprint image isn't stored on any computer or in any database – further protecting security as well as privacy. The end-user simply puts their finger on the KSI keyboard with integrated UPEK biometric fingerprint reader for access into both the network and authorized applications at any workstation throughout the facility.

“In addition to increased security and improved workflow, another benefit of this solution is that it will reduce password management and password reset support calls by over 90%,” said Sig-Tec's National Sales Manager John McGuire.

“The requirement to address the ever growing need to secure the network and the desktop for both the safety of the employees and the organization is critical to every organization. Implementing Sig-Tec’s solution not only meets these requirements while reducing operational costs, but also addresses complying with regulations such as FIPS 201 credentialing, FFIEC compliance, HIPAA, Sarbanes Oxley, Visa PCI, and the Electronic Signatures Act,” added Mike DePasquale, BIO-key’s president and CEO.

About Sig-Tec Software

Sig-Tec Software headquartered in Minneapolis, MN, develops and manufacturers Identity and Access Management software solutions that raises the standard for performance in today’s IdAM market. Sig-Tec’s philosophy in building software solutions acknowledges every customers expectations for a fundamental and reliable solution that is flexible, easy to implement, use and manage. Sig-Tec’s most popular products are “AppStarter” Single Sign On and “SPD” for Strong Authentication. These software solutions make addressing strong passwords and password management fast, simple, and inexpensive for any organization by easily installing in the existing infrastructure in days, not months. Sig-Tec’s identity and access management software has been carefully developed with extensive research with Chief Medical Officers, Chief Information Officers, Chief Security Officers, Directors of IT security, network administrators, security analysts and many other industry experts. For additional information on Sig-Tec please visit www.sig-tec.com or email sales@sig-tec.com.

About BIO-key

BIO-key International, Inc., headquartered in Wall, New Jersey, develops and delivers advanced identification solutions and information services to law enforcement departments, public safety agencies, government and private sector customers. BIO-key's mobile wireless technology provides first responders with critical, reliable, real-time data and images from local, state and national databases. BIO-key's high performance, scalable, cost-effective and easy-to-deploy biometric finger identification technology accurately identifies and authenticates users of wireless and enterprise data to improve security, convenience and privacy and to reduce identity theft. Over 750 police departments in North America rely BIO-key solutions, making BIO-key the leading supplier of mobile and wireless solutions for law enforcement. (<http://www.bio-key.com>)