

KMS Case Study – MasterCard



CENTRALIZED KEY MANAGEMENT

Today MasterCard Europe benefits from a fully automated and centralized key management system developed by Cryptomathic. Every member bank has a number of hardware security modules that are now fully managed and handled centrally from Brussels.



KEY MANAGEMENT CENTRE TO MASTERCARD EUROPE



MasterCard Europe

MasterCard Europe is a European banking organization which owns and manages many of the most commonly used payment systems, including Maestro, EC (EuroCheque), Cirrus, CLIP and Eurocard. MasterCard Europe is a subsidiary of Mastercard Corp.

Managing the Keys

MasterCard Europe used to put much effort into maintaining the keys in their network. They had staff employed that would travel between their hundreds of member banks and update the keys in their network by entering them manually into each box in the distributed network. Today they manage this process centrally from their secured operations venue with multiple and secure user authentication, each with their unique administrative role and credentials. From here the operators can update and configure the cryptographic keys on each individual Network Security Platform (NSP) as well as enter new, shared network keys into all boxes with just a click on a button.

Updating the Keys

When using cryptographic keys for high volumes of sensitive data, it is important to change the encryption keys at regular intervals. These network keys are used by all NSPs to communicate within their own virtual network. When the keys are updated, it is of utmost importance that they are updated on as many NSPs as possible and in as short time as possible. At the same time, it is important that all events are logged securely and that the Key Management Centre (KMC) allows the administrators to communicate with each NSP individually to ensure that all communication to and from the NSPs and the KMC is non-repudiable.



Jean Paul Boly MasterCard Europe

With the Key Management Centre we are able to reduce costs while increasing both network security and performance. We chose to outsource the design and development of the KMC to Cryptomathic due to their extensive knowledge and strong market position within e-Security – especially cryptography. It was important to us that all relevant de facto and industry standards were followed to ensure interoperability throughout the network and to guarantee our member banks a cost-efficient and highly secure infrastructure."

"The KMC is an extremely useful tool for updating and maintaining the security in our networks – this is a good example of the efficiency that allows us to stay in the lead."





Strong User Authentication

Secure operations have been a design goal from the beginning of the project. The KMC Server is located on a physically secured operations site to which only a limited number of system operators have access. Smart cards are used in order to provide strong user authentication. All sensitive operations must be performed within the secured area and with the presence of multiple operators. All non-sensitive operations can be carried out by auditors and operators who are not allowed on the secured operations site.

The first version of the KMC system was introduced in the spring of 2000. Since then the system has been continuously extended and enhanced. The KMC system allows a high degree of flexibility while preserving the highest level of security for operating the Network Security Platforms.

Solution Overview

The KMC system is built around a three-tier architecture with an application server (KMC Server), which provides services for a number of client applications (KMC Client). An Oracle database server is used as repository for the system. The KMC Server has a network interface to the NSPs and uses a hardware security module to secure all keys.

The KMC system is primarily used for managing the system keys, e.g.:

- generating and updating keys for the NSPs
- importing and distributing keys from the member banks
- performing key back up and recovery

Secondly, the operators use the system to monitor the availability and performance of the NSPs. This is done by:

- checking the NSP status
- validating and importing NSP statistics
- backing up audit log information from the NSPs for archival purposes





CRYPTO KEY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Crypto Key Management System (CKMS) provides clients with a centralized solution to flexibly manage a very large number of keys throughout their entire life cycle - without drowning in work. CKMS has been designed to reduce the enormous increases in work-load and costs associated with traditional key management through its flexible and automated protocols that allow, for example, keys to be securely pushed to any key distribution target as and when required and for key custodians to use asynchronous log-on to projects to add components securely, reducing the need for key ceremonies. CKMS easily manages both symmetric keys and asymmetric key pairs using CKMS Key Projects — representation of the current state of a set of keys together with their history and general life cycle management.



CRYPTOMATHIC SIGNER

Cryptomathic Signer is an innovation in digitally signing and certifying electronic documents, from emails through to pdf and any other document type. The basis of the solution differs from other PKI implementations in that the user does not have to carry their private key around with them or store it on their computer. Instead, they simply have to authenticate themselves to the service and sign the relevant electronic document within the server itself. This means that they are not only signing exactly what they see but they also maintain the security of the private signing key.

CRYPTOMATHIC AUTHENTICATOR

The Authenticator is an independent solution for a number of reasons. Firstly, it is independent of token suppliers so customers are not tied to any particular authentication vendors or technologies when choosing the Authenticator. Secondly, the same level of independence applies to HSMs, allowing the Authenticator to support the customer's preferred HSM brands and models.

Through a wide and growing range of user and transaction authentication methods, the Authenticator is able to adapt to future requirements and safeguard the value of the initial investment. It is also possible to provide your customer base with tokens that meet their individual needs without the need for additional infrastructure costs. For example: high risk customers could be provided with tokens based on more complex authentication techniques or even multiple authentication techniques, while low risk customers could be issued with tokens using less complex authentication therefore maximizing protection while also minimizing costs. Cryptomathic Authenticator allows the business to tailor the authentication needs across the business and to migrate between authentication mechanisms as the prevalent fraud migrates.



ABOUT CRYPTOMATHIC

Cryptomathic is a global provider of secure server solutions to businesses across a wide range of industry sectors, including banking, government, technology manufacturing, cloud and mobile. With over 30 years' experience, we provide systems for Authentication & Signing, EMV, Key Management and PKI & ID, through best-of-breed security solutions and services. We pride ourselves on strong technical expertise and unique

market knowledge, with 2/3 of employees working in R&D, including an international team of security experts and a number of world renowned cryptographers. At the leading edge of security provision within its key markets, Cryptomathic closely supports its global customer base with many multinationals as longstanding clients.