CENSORNET

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Jonathan Tole Business Solutions Director, Produce World

PRODUCE WORLD GROUP

Produce World takes fresh approach to security with CensorNet

Produce World are expert growers and suppliers of high quality fresh vegetables in Europe. Originally established in 1898, Produce World is still a privately owned business and still run by the fourth generation of the Burgess family. Produce World specialises in potatoes, root vegetable and alliums. It is a multi site operation based around East Anglia, and also Forres in Scotland. The company grows and sources the majority of its produce in the UK, but also works with overseas growers to ensure year round availability.

Protecting productivity and securing access…

Given the global nature of the Produce World business, many employees need access to company systems, whether they are on farms, customer premises, or working from home, a café or an airport. Given the rise in security threats, particularly from phishing in the last few years, the Produce World team needed that access to be as secure as possible.

As Jonathan Tole, Business Solutions Director. October 2016, at Produce World explains, "In order to ensure our people are as productive as possible, we need them to be able to work from wherever they are, not from just a traditional office setting. Remote working is a key part of our business strategy. But we needed them to be able to do that without compromising on the level of security for our company data and systems."

Customer
Produce World Group

Industry
Agriculture

Challenge
To ensure productivity, remote working is a key part of Produce World's business strategy and to leverage on that they needed a solution to make access secure and convenient.

Solution
CensorNet MFA (Multi-Factor Authentication)

Old school authentication

Jonathan and his team were all too aware of how vulnerable the authentication element of security is and the significant risk of relying solely on user names and passwords. Over two thirds of network breaches involve weak or stolen passwords. As a result, Produce World had been using a hardware token-based two-factor authentication system for a number of years.

But as Jonathan explains, "Our users had to carry hardware tokens around with them, which they often lost. This meant it was a really expensive solution to run and difficult to manage. We were constantly buying replacement tokens. We wanted a solution that used a piece of hardware our employees would never be without – their phones."

Green shoots with Multi-Factor Authentication

At the top of Produce World's list of priorities was an intuitive way to protect the business from cyber threats, phishing in particular, whilst allowing employees to have an easy experience when accessing company networks. After reviewing a number of options, Jonathan and his team soon realised that Multi-Factor Authentication was the answer and CensorNet MFA was the best solution on the market.

"The ease of use and ease of set up meant that the selection of CensorNet MFA was the right solution for us," Jonathan explains. "We wanted a solution which utilized employees' mobile phones as an authentication device, even if it wasn't a smart phone."

The fact that CensorNet MFA uses a number of variables to authenticate the user, including IP address, time of day, geographical location and device, meant that Produce World could really increase the level of security at the log in. Once identified, the system sends a one-time passcode to the user's mobile, which expires in less than a minute.

Growth of the benefits

Although security and protecting Produce World's systems is the main priority, the team has also been pleased with how easy their employees find the solution to use. "You have the added worry that users won't engage with a system if they find it tricky or time consuming to use," says Jonathan. "The fact that CensorNet MFA is straightforward for our employees means they can easily log on to company systems from wherever they are. So it doesn't hinder productivity at all."

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Another benefit has been the fact that new users can be added really quickly and employees that leave can be removed easily. Also, as employees' mobile numbers are securely stored in the system, this gives users peace of mind about the protection of their personal information.

As Jonathan concludes, "We have managed to make cost savings, as we don't have to purchase hardware tokens and myriad replacement tokens any more. Our systems are more secure. And CensorNet was very supportive during the whole implementation and roll out process. What more could you ask for?"

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