

Leuven University Hospital (UZ Leuven) protects confidential patient information with VASCO's DIGIPASS 300

Leading medical technology, high quality innovative medicine, care and trust are part of the Leuven University Hospital's mission. With its 1,894 beds and more than 8,000 staff members, the UZ Leuven is one of the largest and most renowned health care centres in the Benelux. The UZ is also a leader when it comes to ICT. Doctors who are not part of the hospital's permanent staff can consult their patient's UZLeuven file through the Internet, with the patient's consent. Specialist research, carried out at the UZ, can be interpreted online in a local doctor's practice and employees can access the UZ network from home.



The ICT managers of the UZ faced two major issues when the hospital decided in 1999 that all medical files should be made accessible to external third parties through the Internet. How can you make the Internet, which is an open system, secure enough? How can you guarantee that only people who are authorised have access to the UZ network?

A sufficiently high level of security is crucial in making such applications function properly. In order to guarantee that only the right people have access to the applications they need to use.

The answer was easy: by combining a secure encrypted connection with strong authentication. The authentication product chosen by UZLeuven was VASCO's DIGIPASS 300. The UZLeuven started using DIGIPASS 300 at the end of 1999.

DIFFERENT APPLICATIONS SECURED BY DIGIPASS

The UZ Leuven is using VASCO's DIGIPASS 300 for an increasing number of applications.

LISA (the Leuvense Internet Samenwerking Artsen or the Internet cooperation agreement of Leuvenbased GPs):

The application offers medical practitioners (GPs, specialists, other healthcare providers) who wish to refer a case the possibility to access patient files as available to staff at the hospital. These external practitioners are only given access to the patient's file if the patient authorises them by signing an "informed consent agreement". The document is presented to all patients who mentioned that the doctor who referred them to the UZ is a LISA-

member. More than 99% of the patients who are treated give authorisation. The interaction between external healthcare providers and the UZ Leuven is secured with VASCO's DIGIPASS 300. Currently some 200 doctors who refer patients to the UZ and use a DIGIPASS participate in the LISA-project. More than 23.000 patient files can be accessed through LISA.

Vlaams Ziekenhuisnetwerk KULeuven:

Various hospitals in the Flemish Hospital Network KULeuven use applications requiring increased authentication from doctors who refer cases. From now on one single DIGIPASS will be sufficient to access several applications.

PETNET:

Very specific and exceptional research is done at the UZ Leuven within the framework of nuclear medicine. Local specialists will be able to request and interpret research results from their own offices via PETNET. DIGIPASS 300 delivers strong authentication.

Remote access:

Hundreds of UZ employees will be able to access the hospital's network safely with DIGIPASS 300, wherever they are. This will enable staff to work on solutions for urgent problems at all times.



Number of Beds	1 894
Consultations/year	546 420
Admissions/year	62 598
Day Hospital Admissions/year	85 940
Staff Members	7 390

TECHNICAL ASPECTS

UZ staff or local GPs are not necessarily computer specialists. That is why the UZ's Information Systems service focused on the user-friendliness of the system. And successfully! The LISA-programme was integrated in a browser which means users do not need to download cumbersome programmes. Determining factors for choosing VASCO's DIGIPASS were security and the

user-friendliness of the software.

The UZ Leuven's Information Systems service built its own security infrastructure and acquired the DIGIPASS 300 and DIGIPASS Libraries from VASCO in order to guarantee verification. The system also uses a Java Applet implemented SecureShell solution.



"We opted for VASCO because the DIGIPASS product family has already proven its trustworthiness," said Professor Dr. Bart Van den Bosch of UZ Leuven.

"The user-friendliness, robust character and price/quality equation of DIGIPASS 300 were important criteria. With VASCO we have been able to make the Internet a secure channel. This enables us to offer services to our patients, our medical practitioners and employees which benefit the quality of our service - and therefore the quality of our health care."

About UZ Leuven

For more than 75 years, University Hospitals Leuven provides quality medical and paramedical services to ambulant and hospitalized patients, at campus Gasthuisberg, Lubbeek, Pellenberg, Sint-Pieter and Sint-Rafaël. With 1 894 beds, UZ Leuven is the largest hospital in Belgium. More than 8,000 employees are committed daily to offer diversified and specialized patient care and to work continuously on improvement and renewal of such care. The strength of UZ Leuven lies in the combination of research, training and multidisciplinary patient care, making them the permanent object of critical reflection and review.

About VASCO

VASCO is a leading supplier of strong authentication and e-signature solutions and services specializing in Internet Security applications and transactions. VASCO has positioned itself as global software company for Internet Security and designs, develops, markets and supports patented DIGIPASS®, DIGIPASS PLUS®, VACMAN®, IDENTIKEY® and aXsGUARD™ authentication products. VASCO's prime markets are the financial sector, enterprise security, e-commerce and e-government.

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