CASE STUDY

SHARP HEALTHCARE, CALIFORNIA: ENABLING STRONG AUTHENTICATION WITH BIOMETRICS

The Challenge

Sharp Healthcare is San Diego's most comprehensive health care delivery system, comprising more than 1,800 licensed beds and 2,500 physicians. Its wide network of hospitals, medical groups, nursing facilities, and community health centers, offer a full range of integrated care to approximately 3 million area residents. With its wide network, Sharp wanted to provide faster and easier access to resources through biometrics, single sign-on, and context management, while helping ensure greater patient security and privacy.

The Solution

In 2003, Sharp Healthcare re-engineered its entire clinical system with Sentillion's Vergence® technology to simplify caregiver access and implement greater security and patient privacy. Vergence integrates Identix BioLogon® fingerprint biometric authentication software and provides solutions for strong authentication, single sign-on, context management, and privacy management for the healthcare industry.

Sharp's first phase of re-engineering included installing the context management, single sign-on, and privacy auditing portions of Sentillion's Vergence suite. To enable strong authentication, Identix fingerprint authentication and Identix BioTouch fingerprint readers were added to complete the solution. The fingerprint readers are connected to a variety of systems, including PCs, thin clients, and mobile carts, both traditional and wireless. The fingerprint reader technology is seamlessly integrated with Vergence Authenticator and Active Directory. This ensures strong authentication of the user, while simultaneously setting the user context for the associated workstation. Upon verification, the user is granted access rights.

Sentillion's single sign-on capability and Identix fingerprint biometric authentication are now enabling doctors, nurses, and other caregivers to log onto the system with a single user name and a touch of their finger in order to gain access to all of the necessary clinical programs, without needing to log on to each clinical program individually. This has resulted in greater convenience for Sharp's enrolled users by eliminating the need to remember passwords and carry cards.

The deployment which is touted to be the largest network of biometrically enabled, strong authentication solutions ever installed in a healthcare environment included 8,000 Identix BioTouch™ USB fingerprint readers and an 11,000-user BioLogon server license.

Implementation is well underway. To date, 5,000 readers are in place, providing about 9,000 of the 12,000 Sharp employees with biometric authentication. The remaining 3,000 readers are currently being installed, scheduled for completion in the spring of 2005.

"This is the future of healthcare IT. Over the past year, we've re-engineered our entire clinical system with Vergence technology, making it easier to use and more accessible for caregivers, while integrating key technologies, such as Identix' biometric authentication products, that provide absolute privacy for patient information and thorough tracking and reporting to meet all the HIPAA requirements. Biometrically-enabled, strong authentication is the final piece," commented William Spooner, SVP and CIO of Sharp Healthcare.

At project completion, Sharp's state-of-the-art authentication solution will provide greater security for 8,700 Sharp users and, as a result, will help protect the record of countless patients.

The successful integration of the solution into Sharp's IT system is providing faster and easier access to resources while helping ensure greater patient security and privacy. Workflows have been greatly enhanced throughout Sharp's facilities enabling faster decision-making and better patient care.

Recently, *Modern Healthcare* magazine ranked Sharp 9th among the Top 100 Integrated Healthcare Networks. Sharp's goal is to continue providing our caregivers and patients with the highest quality technology resources and, in doing so, to become the premier example of IT innovation in healthcare.

"Combining the leader in biometric authentication hardware and software and the leader in single sign-on for healthcare promises to benefit the healthcare industry. Sentillion is committed to delivering simplified access to the diverse clinical and non-clinical applications found in healthcare. The integration of Identix biometric authentication into Sentillion's single sign-on technology offers our healthcare customers a one stop shopping approach to implementing a more secure and readily accessible clinical solution," said Robert Seliger, Sentillion President and CEO.

About BioLogon® Technology
Identix BioLogon technology offers complete multi-factor authentication of biometrics providing fingerprint and password support. BioLogon is designed to integrate seamlessly into a network's OS for central administration, configuration and maintenance of user account and security policies. Accepts multiple user account login methods, including biometrics and smartcard/PIN combinations.

About Identix Incorporated
Identix Incorporated (Nasdaq:IDNX) is the world's leading multi-biometric technology company. Identix provides fingerprint, facial and skin biometric technologies, as well as systems, and critical system components that empower the identification of individuals in large-scale ID and ID management programs. The Company's offerings include live scan systems and services for biometric data capture, mobile systems for on-the-spot ID, and backend standards-based modules and software components for biometric matching and data mining. Identix products are used to conduct background checks, speed travel and commerce via secure identification documents, prevent identity fraud in large-scale government and civil ID programs, and control access to secure areas and networks. With a global network of partners, such as leading system integrators, defense prime contractors and OEMs, Identix serves a broad range of markets including government, law enforcement, gaming, finance, travel, transportation, corporate enterprise and healthcare.