



Securing chip, cloud and computer

Intel, Acer and VASCO deliver innovative two-factor authentication solution to small and medium businesses



Challenges

- **Smooth balance.** Enable resource-limited small and medium businesses (SMBs) to achieve advanced authentication for sensitive data access without compromising the user experience
- **Combine strengths.** Create a solution that bundles business-ready laptops with both software- and hardware-based security capabilities

Solutions

- **Business clients.** Acer TravelMate* P455 devices are powered by Intel® Core™ processors and Acer TravelMate* P645 Ultrabook™ devices are powered by Intel® Core™ vPro™ processors
- **Built-in security.** Intel® Identity Protection Technology (Intel® IPT) is available in every Intel Core processor, and is integrated with VASCO's DIGIPASS* two-factor authentication
- **Cloud authentication.** Two-factor authentication is convenient and delivered through the cloud for user convenience and ease of implementation

Impact

- **First to market.** Three-part solution is the first offering of its type to be launched, creating an attractive advantage for all three solution providers as well as for the customer
- **Expertise evolution.** Acer can provide its customers with not only reliable devices but also security solutions
- **Compelling solution.** SMB employees now have highly secure and user friendly remote access capabilities, with no extra burden on the IT team

Balancing security and usability

The rise of workplace-enhancing technologies like software-as-a-service (SaaS) and remote working has transformed many large enterprises. These innovations have brought with them the opportunity to benefit from more flexible business models, access to new revenue streams and happier employees.

However, SMBs often struggle to take advantage of these opportunities given the limited time and resources that can be dedicated to managing new IT projects. A particular challenge is balancing two critical but often conflicting priorities: ensuring a smooth user experience and making sure company data is protected with robust security measures.

Intel, together with PC manufacturer Acer and authentication specialist VASCO Data Security, realized there was an opportunity to provide SMBs with the resources they need to make remote access to VPNs and other systems seamlessly simple and secure. Acer wanted to take advantage of the Intel IPT capabilities that come with the Intel Core processors in its devices to offer built-in hardware authentication capabilities. Incorporating the cloud-based version of VASCO's DIGIPASS two-factor authentication solution would provide an easy-to-use software-level security layer as well.

Stronger together

The three organizations each contributed an important element to the combined solution. It is offered with the Acer TravelMate P455 powered by Intel Core processors and Acer TravelMate P645 Ultrabook devices, powered by Intel Core vPro processors. The devices are designed for business use and offer SMB customers advanced performance and reliability. Intel IPT is built into the processor in each device, enabling users to benefit from advanced two-factor authentication without the need for any hardware customization.

The devices will also be offered with a subscription to the cloud-based DIGIPASS two-factor authentication service from VASCO. Users can connect to the service online and use it to authenticate access to the VPN or other protected areas within the SMB's IT environment. With a cloud-based solution, SMBs enjoy all the security benefits of a two-factor authentication model that uses hardware and software without needing to purchase, install, configure and run any additional hardware themselves.

"The solution bundle is designed with SMBs in mind," explains the Acer EMEA notebook manager. "Not only does it offer them banking-class security capabilities, but it's really simple to implement and use, so they can focus on their core business and not worry about complex IT upkeep."



Intel® Identity Protection Technology delivers strong security with Acer laptops and VASCO authentication software

"We look forward to helping more organizations take advantage of the latest cloud and remote working opportunities through our devices. With Intel® Identity Protection Technology and VASCO's integrated two-factor authentication solution, we're moving beyond a purely device-focused approach and positioning ourselves as a much broader IT solution provider."

*EMEA Notebook Manager,
Acer*

Setting a new standard

With the bundled solution poised for launch, both VASCO and Acer are expecting to see significant benefits for themselves as well as their customers.

"We're very excited to be working with such well-known industry leaders as Intel and Acer on this project," says Jan Valke, president and COO, VASCO Data Security. "Our organization is recognized for its excellence in authentication, but through this relationship we expect to build our reputation even further. It's also very exciting for us that this three-part solution is unique in the marketplace. The combination of Intel IPT hardware with natively embedded VASCO DIGIPASS two-factor authentication on an Acer business-ready device is not something that other companies in the market segment can offer, so it's a great differentiator for us and above all a compelling offering for the SMB customer."

Acer can now offer even more to its SMB customers. "We look forward to helping more organizations take advantage of the latest cloud and remote working opportunities through our devices," says Acer's EMEA notebook manager. "With Intel IPT, we're moving beyond a purely device-focused approach and positioning ourselves as a much broader IT solution provider."

The end customer is, of course, the key beneficiary. Intel, VASCO and Acer expect that SMBs will enjoy new levels of security while achieving a smooth and hassle-free experience for their employees, whenever and wherever they choose to work.

"Accurate and convenient verification of users' identities will be possible thanks to this solution bundle," says Valke. "Both users and SMBs now have the tools to make sure they are dealing with the right party. Bundling our innovative solutions to create trusted identities will change the trust between both parties and hence the way SMBs and end users will do business."

Intel® Identity Protection Technology

Traditionally, two-factor authentication uses a one-time password (OTP) which combines something the user knows (a username and password) and something the user has (typically, a token that produces a six-digit number code). In the case of Intel IPT with OTP, a unique, one-time use, six-digit number is generated every 30 seconds from an embedded processor that is tamper-proof and operates in isolation from the operating system. Because the credential is protected inside the chipset, it cannot be compromised by malware or removed from the PC.

For more information, please contact your local Acer sales representative.

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