

Securing the NAVAIR Airwaves

the Navy Air Warfare Centre turns to movianVPN by Certicom to secure their wireless network

"movianVPN by Certicom is an elegant solution that did not add overhead to NAVAIR's communications. It's robust and supports all the platforms and operating systems my users need. And because it's customizable, management continues to be easy for me."

– Kenneth Chrismond, NAVAIR network manager

The Navy Air Warfare Centre, or NAVAIR, in Patuxent River, Maryland, is home to more than 13,000 navy personnel and is one of the U.S. Navy's premier Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation facilities. Kenneth Chrismond is NAVAIR's network manager and senior technical consultant. His duties include working at the forefront of technology, to test and evaluate products for the U.S. Navy.

Chrismond also supports more than 100 executive and admiral level users who rely on handheld devices for email and access to the NAVAIR intranet from all over the world. According to Chrismond, NAVAIR's communications are classified as "sensitive" and require security. Unless Chrismond can secure wireless connections, communications are restricted until they return to the security of NAVAIR's wired network.

THE CHALLENGE: wireless security

In addition to needing wireless security, Chrismond needed a common solution that worked across a mixed environment of Palm Pilots and Pocket PCs using different operating systems. These devices needed to communicate with NAVAIR's existing wired VPN gateway. Finally, he needed a solution that didn't overload the slower links in his network or the processors and batteries of his mobile devices.

requirements

- strong security for wireless communications
- negligible impact on network performance
- common solution for Palm Pilot and Pocket PC platforms
- ease-of-management, ease-of-use
- common solution for different operating systems

THE SOLUTION: movianVPN by Certicom

key benefits

- standards-based interoperability
- optimized for wireless environments
- satisfies government security standards

After testing three vendors, movianVPN by Certicom emerged as the clear choice. Of the solutions tested, only movianVPN supported multiple platforms and did not cause network timeouts with encryption overhead.

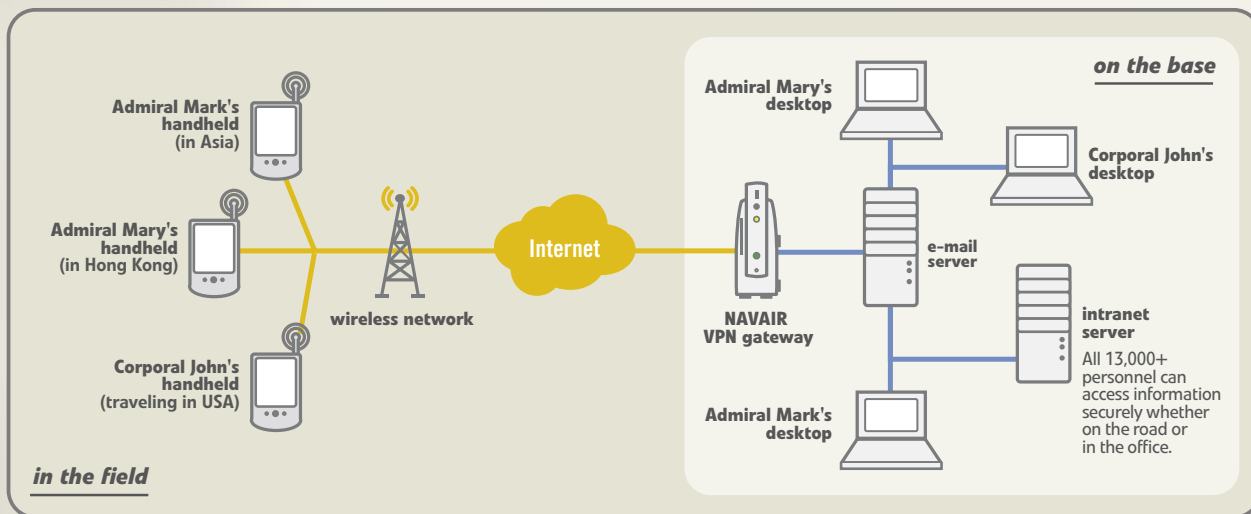
Bringing together the convenience of remote access, the mobility of wireless and the essential security needed for wireless VPNs, movianVPN is a software client that provides real security from wireless handhelds to the NAVAIR intranet. Built on IPSec, the de facto VPN security standard, movianVPN works with leading VPN gateways, handhelds and wireless networks so you can extend strong security to mobile employees.



"I'm especially happy with the responsiveness and access I have to Certicom's people," says Chrismond. "I enjoy relationships with the Certicom team and continue to receive excellent support. Each upgrade has been fairly easy even though I'm changing platforms on my end. Now it's easy to stay on top of technology."

With movianVPN loaded on NAVAIR's handhelds, users communicate via secure encrypted and authenticated VPN tunnels. Due to

Certicom's patented ECC technology, algorithms remain strong without key lengths that devour resources and battery life on handheld devices. And since movianVPN is built on Certicom's FIPS 140-2 Validated cryptographic module, Security Builder® GSE, it satisfies U.S. Federal Government requirements for encryption and security.



The above diagram shows movianVPN securing communications among handhelds across the NAVAIR intranet via the existing VPN gateway on the base. With communications secured in real time right on the device, true mobility is achieved and users communicate from anywhere: about the base, across the country or around world.

THE RESULTS: Total Wireless Security

Today, Chrismond's users take full advantage of their handhelds wherever they are. "Recently, I've had Admirals from as far away as Switzerland and Hong Kong using their handhelds to communicate with NAVAIR. My users love that it works and have nothing but good things to say about being able to get their jobs done more efficiently."

- secure, wireless network access from anywhere
- common solution for multiple platforms and OSes
- negligible impact on network performance or device
- customizable solution results in ease-of-management

The success of movianVPN paves the way for the rollout of additional secure handhelds at NAVAIR and elsewhere. "I've turned other bases on to using movianVPN ... expect to see this throughout the Navy," offers Chrismond.

With wireless communications secure, Chrismond focuses on his next task: the new Federal Government requirement for S/MIME e-mail. To satisfy the requirement, NAVAIR is evaluating movianMail by Certicom. movianMail encrypts and signs every e-mail and attachment before sending it through a secure movianVPN tunnel. It is the first wireless applications to fully support the Department of Defense Common Access Card.

about certicom

Certicom is a leading provider of wireless security solutions, enabling developers, governments and enterprises to add strong security to their devices, networks and applications. Designed for constrained devices, Certicom's patented technologies are unsurpassed in delivering the strongest cryptography with the smallest impact on performance and usability.

