

BANK OF UGANDA

Uganda's Central Bank delivers world-class security with RSA® SecurID®

AT-A-GLANCE

Key Requirements

- Limit internal network access to authorized employees
- Secure transactions on the bank's online payments and financial system by ensuring only trusted partners can gain access
- Ensure the bank's IT systems comply with international financial-security standards

Solution

- RSA SecurID hardware tokens provide two-factor authentication to verify the identity of users accessing the bank's network or online platform
- Ongoing training on the new system provided by RSA systems integrator 2MN to both internal users and banking partners in Uganda

Results

- Secure, world-class IT systems that are protected against unauthorized access attempts
- Minimal disruption to users
- Demonstrates Bank of Uganda's commitment to ensuring its systems comply with international standards

“With RSA SecurID in place we can be confident that only authorized employees and partners are able to gain access to the Bank of Uganda's network and online payments and financial system. Our experience with the technology over the past few years has proven it to be a reliable, trustworthy solution, and one that plays a key part in ensuring that the bank's IT infrastructure meets the standards of the international finance community.”

HUBERT KIYIMBA, IT SECURITY ADMINISTRATOR, BANK OF UGANDA

Bank of Uganda (BoU) is the Central Bank of the Republic of Uganda. The primary purpose of the Bank is to foster price stability and a sound financial system. Together with other institutions, it also plays a pivotal role as a center of excellence in upholding macroeconomic stability.

KEY REQUIREMENTS

The Bank of Uganda is the country's Central Bank, providing financial services to the Government and financial institutions that operate within Uganda.

As befits an institution that plays a crucial role in supporting Uganda's economic infrastructure, securing the Bank of Uganda's systems is a primary concern to its management team. In recent years, there has been an internal drive to enhance the security of the IT resources that underpin its operations. This has been supported by its international partners, such as the World Bank, which has worked with the Bank of Uganda to deliver a number of projects within the country.

One issue that was of particular importance to the bank was ensuring that files on its internal network could only be accessed by authorized employees. Another focal point for enhancing access security was its online payments and financial system, which is used by internal employees as well as representatives from external financial institutions to process financial transactions.

Hubert Kiyimba, an IT Security Administrator at the Bank of Uganda, said: “The bank's online payments and financial system platform is an important part of the banking system within Uganda, and it was a priority for us to ensure it could only be accessed by the right people. As the system is used to conduct transactions by a number of external contacts, in addition to our own employees, we needed to ensure that the process of gaining access was secure but also easy-to-follow and reliable.”

CUSTOMER
PROFILE



“SecurID provides an ideal combination of powerful, reliable protection in a package that is simple and intuitive for users. It has enabled us to significantly improve our security position without impacting the quality of the service we deliver.”

HUBERT KIYIMBA, IT SECURITY
ADMINISTRATOR, BANK OF UGANDA

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SOLUTION

The Bank of Uganda assessed different technologies that could help secure local and remote access to important systems and decided that a token-based system that uses two-factor authentication to provide an extra layer of security during the verification process was best-suited to its requirements.

Kiyimba said: “After evaluating the different options available and consulting independent recommendations we identified RSA SecurID as the market leader. We scheduled a meeting with 2MN, one of RSA’s integrator partners within the East Africa region, to discuss the details of the technology and how it could be integrated within our operations.

“As well as its superior security performance, another aspect of the SecurID technology that especially appealed was its compatibility with our existing financial-software environment. It was important that we found a solution that could integrate fluidly to augment our existing resources.”

After setting up a trial of the SecurID solution to determine how it would perform within its IT environment, the Bank of Uganda enlisted 2MN to oversee a roll-out involving 1,700 SecurID hardware tokens, split between internal users and those at external institutions who use the bank’s online payments and financial system.

2MN supported the deployment from start to finish, employing a holistic approach that involved it overseeing the technical logistics of integrating the SecurID solution, supporting the bank’s strategic decision-making around its efforts to enhance its security, and training users as they began to use the technology.

As the project progressed, the flexibility of the SecurID solution provided invaluable, with the bank using its API to integrate the two-factor authentication process into the proprietary software environment powering its online payments and financial system. This ensured that the introduction of the new access-control processes was seamless, minimizing disruption to users.

RESULTS

Since deployment, the SecurID technology has preformed reliably for the Bank of Uganda, ensuring consistent access protection across its network and online-banking platform. One of the key features of the solution is its ability to “heal itself” in the event of any issues arising with the authentication server. If any problems are experienced, SecurID automatically deploys a back-up server, ensuring that access to the bank’s systems is not interrupted.

The process of transitioning internal and external users to the new access procedures proved problem-free. The easy-to-use nature of the SecurID token system and the training 2MN provided to Bank of Uganda employees and its partner organizations on using the technology helped ensure that their use of the bank’s platforms was unimpeded.

The implementation has helped the Bank of Uganda ensure its IT systems meet the standards of the international financial community and demonstrate its commitment to developing a world-class banking infrastructure, which could result in increased support from international finance institutions.

With the SecurID solution in place, the Bank of Uganda can be confident its systems are secured against unauthorized access. Kiyimba concluded: “SecurID provides an ideal combination of powerful, reliable protection in a package that is simple and intuitive for users. It has enabled us to significantly improve our security position without impacting the quality of the service we deliver.”

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