

# Defense Contractor Automates User & Machine Authentication to Secure Every Digital Interaction



Ensured they would pass necessary NIST and CMMC mandates



Went from 7 disparate authentication systems to **one unified solution**



Enabled secure email signing and encryption for **the Federal Bridge**

## STANDARDIZING CREDENTIAL MANAGEMENT WITH USER-CENTRIC TECHNOLOGY

With high standards and even higher stakes, aerospace & defense need end-to-end security solutions. Breaches of sensitive defense data are estimated to cost the US economy \$600 billion per year. The DoD is determined to prevent these leaks, so requires mandates such as NIST and CMMC. These require government contractors to adopt solutions to authenticate all their entities—from privileged and non-privileged users to devices and applications.

One leading US defense contractor resolved to implement a comprehensive authentication solution that would meet the necessary standards of today and tomorrow. They had been using multiple on-prem authentication systems, creating a patchwork of solutions which were difficult to manage. Each product required its own portal for users to manage, had a separate support team IT would need to work with, and required different expertise. They needed a solution that would meet all their use cases without taking up their IT teams' time and resources or adding more steps for users.

**The contractor chose the Axiad credential management solution** to authenticate all their users and machines on their network to simplify their IT teams' credential management process. They transitioned from on-premises to the cloud, bringing their multiple authentication tools onto the Axiad Conductor SaaS platform.

This solution enabled them to securely authenticate their privileged users with FIPS-140 certified hardware tokens and certificates along with their non-privileged users with hardware tokens on their mobile devices and desktops. Their trusted communities gained secure email with signing and encrypting for the Federal Bridge. They also were able to authenticate their devices as well as their users, so the laptops, servers, security cameras, and other machines on their network were issued certificates as well.

**Axiad Conductor also improved the efficiency and effectiveness of the IT department.** The organization no longer needed to spend excess time and resources on their credential management and could do more with less. Their automated cloud solution enabled their IT team to focus on projects to grow the business instead of maintaining their legacy systems. The credential process was also simplified for end users, who no longer needed to remember which portal to switch between to issue and update credentials. If they did run into an issue, there was no longer any confusion on which support team to reach out. **The Axiad solution created a streamlined system for all aspects of credential management.**

# THE CHALLENGE

In large organizations like aerospace and defense contractors, keeping up with the latest and greatest security solutions for all user and device types can be challenging. One large US defense contractor had developed multiple PKI and MFA programs within their IT infrastructure to protect their digital ecosystem, but these identity silos were challenging to manage individually. The upkeep for the various solutions made it difficult to meet essential standards such as NIST and CMMC.

## THE SOLUTION

With the guidance of the Axiad team, they implemented Axiad Conductor to bring their various credential solutions—such as certificates, hardware tokens, TPM, etc.—into one unified platform. They were able to transition their systems into a virtual private cloud, which gave them the benefits of a cloud infrastructure without the risk of a mutualized system and better prepared them for security audits.

Axiad's credential management solution offered benefits to all their users and devices:

- FIPS-140 certified hardware tokens for privileged users
- Tokens on devices/TPM for non-privileged users
- Automated certificate authority for their devices such as phones, laptops, servers, etc.
- Email signing and encryption with Federal Bridge for trusted communities

## THE RESULTS

With the Axiad solution, the defense contractor can meet mandates such as NIST and CMMC without worry. They consolidated their various systems into one solution which was easy for both their IT team and end users to manage. The team has seen high satisfaction with their single automated credential management platform and can have full confidence they will pass any upcoming audits on their authentication security.

- They reduced their authentication systems from seven to one unified portal
- They simplified support with one hub of knowledge for all their credentials
- They secured email and document signing to meet necessary DoD requirements

