

### **About DHS**

*DHS has a vital mission: to secure the nation. It employs more than 230,000 people to keep America safe. Founded in 2003, DHS made a commitment to integrate, consolidate, and transform individual component infrastructures into an integrated, world-class IT infrastructure. DHS has a geographically dispersed network with 21 component agencies. For DHS, ensuring a secure and trusted computing environment that enables it to effectively share information in support of its mission is critical.*

## **Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Uses Xceedium GateKeeper® for Access Control and Compliance**

### **The Challenge: Continuous Audit Quality Logging for Reporting; Access Control to Remote Core Data Center Sites**

DHS has a vital mission: to secure the nation. It employs more than 230,000 people to keep America safe. Founded in 2003, DHS made a commitment to integrate, consolidate, and transform individual component infrastructures into an integrated, world-class IT infrastructure. DHS' Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), Information Technology Services Office (ITSO), and Risk Management Control Division (RMCD) were faced with the challenge, among others, of unifying 21 component agencies. For DHS, providing system and network administrators' controlled and auditable access to key data centers is not only imperative to ensuring the integrity of their network, but also a headquartered-mandated requirement for proving compliance.

DHS has a geographically dispersed network with 21 component agencies. For DHS, ensuring a secure and trusted computing environment that enables it to effectively share information in support of its mission is critical. OCIO, ITSO and RMCD manage the IT infrastructure including all of the information assurance and certifications for DHS Headquarters.

Faced with the challenge of strengthening the components through the creation of one secure network and reducing the number of data centers, DHS must coordinate centralized, integrated activities across components that are distinct in their missions and operations. With scores of administrators accessing key infrastructure at these core data centers, DHS' Risk Management Control Division was tasked with ensuring contained access and monitoring, logging and tracking all administrative changes to its systems.

## **About Xceedium**

*Xceedium Inc., provides market leading access control solutions for third party vendors, contractors and privileged users.*

*Employing unique and patent-pending technologies, the Xceedium GateKeeper line of hardened appliances enables organizations to extend and manage access while safeguarding business critical assets, demonstrating compliance and decreasing business risk. Its key differentiator lies in its ability to enforce policy and contain users based on the user's explicit privileges. Deployed in the largest government, enterprise and SMB environments, Xceedium's ever-expanding client base includes household names in federal government, financial services, healthcare, pharmaceutical, retail, MSP and other key verticals.*

In addition to stringent security policies, DHS is subject to compliance regulations including Federal Desktop Core Configuration (FDCC) standards. Launched by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in 2007, the FDCC ensures that federal workstations have standardized, uniform, desktop configurations to enable more consistent and better documented security while reducing costs.

DHS needed a solution that would allow them to support the component consolidation effort, transforming the 21 sites to two by unifying and controlling access to key servers at those sites while maintaining the separation of duties within and across the component agencies, and ultimately fostering the overall DHS mission through heightened IT security and regulatory compliance.

## **The Solution: Xceedium GateKeeper**

DHS selected Xceedium GateKeeper to provide access control for privileged users including system and network administrators to its key network servers. Xceedium GateKeeper's purpose-built solution enforces fine grained access control policy on users, contains them to authorized systems and applications, and monitors, logs, records and reports their activities for compliance and security risk management. This gives DHS control over its privileged users and high risk assets.

An Identity-based Access Control Solution, Xceedium GateKeeper provides DHS access control, user containment and audit-quality logging in a single appliance-based offering. From an operations and risk perspective this allows DHS to granularly control who gets access to what servers, when and for how long in an easy-to-manage unified offering. By using Xceedium GateKeeper's patent-pending LeapFrog Prevention technology DHS can contain users from its 21 sites to authorized systems and applications without any reconfiguration of their network.

Xceedium GateKeeper's Command Line (CLI) and DVR-like Graphical Session Recording capabilities also addressed the DHS requirement to maintain end-to-end accountability which they leverage to ensure compliance and to provide, through a comprehensive audit trail, lessons learned for any issues as a result of changes.



## Highlights

- *Provides a single location to manage authorization policy for any user accessing infrastructure resources.*
- *Increases security by centralizing policy management and enforcement for user activity across the infrastructure.*
- *Enforces controls for users when they are inside the critical infrastructure, containing them to authorized resources, enabling organizations to easily meet compliance and security requirements.*
- *Enhances security and provides strong controls while protecting the entire IT infrastructure by compartmentalizing, controlling and segmenting users according to their roles and responsibilities.*
- *Validates controls by establishing a complete audit trail and ensures full accountability for user activities.*
- *Offers customized targeted compliance reports which can be automatically generated to meet audit and regulatory requirements.*

“At DHS security is paramount to us,” said a security expert at DHS. “The Xceedium GateKeeper fills a critical need for us, especially as we consolidate our 21 component agencies, by serving as a unified jump point to all of our data center servers for administrator access. By requiring these privileged users to hit the Xceedium GateKeeper before they can access critical network resources we ensure they will be contained to authorized systems only, and that we will meet our compliance requirements. With Xceedium GateKeeper we have an all-in-one solution for these higher risk users which gives us the peace of mind that we are meeting our objectives to safeguard our network and the sensitive information it contains.”

## **The Benefits: Audit Quality Logging; Secure Controlled Access**

With Xceedium GateKeeper, DHS has been able to provide privileged users with highly secure access to key servers in its facilities. As a result, Xceedium GateKeeper has increased their network security while enforcing security policy and meets DHS objectives to consolidate component agencies. The Xceedium GateKeeper also helps to maintain FDCC compliance at the desktop level since the secure access is provisioned via a web browser without an additional desktop client required.

The power to provide in a single solution the ability to control, monitor, log and track all administrator changes also has streamlined operations through increased visibility as they can now easily determine when a change was made and the implications of that change.

“After several months of use, Xceedium GateKeeper has made a quantifiable impact on our data center consolidation efforts. Not only do we contain administrators to approved systems, we now have an audit trail that provides lessons learned for any issues, putting us in good stead for compliance,” the security expert said.

Purpose built with the needs of highly complex, geographically dispersed and heterogeneous technology infrastructures in mind, Xceedium GateKeeper is the only turnkey solution that provides unmatched access control and audit capabilities. Using Xceedium GateKeeper, DHS is able to centralize and streamline all administrator activities required to provide real-time accountability for access, delivering the necessary proof for compliance. Xceedium GateKeeper is Common Criteria-EAL3 certified with EAL4 in process and FIPS 140-2, Level 2 certified.

The logo for Xceedium, featuring a stylized 'X' with a red dot above it, followed by the word 'ceedium' in a bold, black, sans-serif font.