



ViPNet: VPN solution from INFOTECS deployed by StepOver, the leading European company in handwritten electronic signature

<http://www.stepover.de/>



StepOver GmbH is one of the youngest customers of Infotecs GmbH, the developer of the software VPN solutions under the ViPNet brand.

StepOver GmbH is Europe's leading manufacturer of hardware and software for handwritten electronic signature, which sold over 50.000 software installations in Germany.

The major StepOver clients are insurance companies and industrial enterprises, whose traveling salesmen, service workers, and check points in general use overall more than 30.000 signature pads. The StepOver products are also implemented in the state sector and the banking field.

Meanwhile, the enterprises behind the German national borders do not yield in this respect – modern StepOver has more than five production and sales locations, among which are Germany, Spain and Byelorussia that has build a unified interregional network. Because of that the VPN solution should serve for unification of the heterogeneous WAN in the highly secured Intranet.

According to the developer's selection, the implemented VPN solution must meet the following requirements:

- ✚ No limitation or change in the existing network structure;
- ✚ Avoid the purchasing of additional hardware components;
- ✚ Independence from the type of connection to the Internet in different locations;
- ✚ Complete transparency for all the network applications and services;
- ✚ Uncomplicated implementation and configuration without interfering with the working process;
- ✚ Long lasting management of the VPN without significant time and manpower outlay with a possibility to automate the majority of the processes to minimize the costs and exclude the errors in configuration;
- ✚ Possibility to widen and change the existing VPN structure, in case of the enterprise development and expansion.

A special requirement to the implemented VPN solution was setting an Internet router together with firewall system in one of the locations of the enterprise. Meanwhile the connection of the networks, which form the VPN, could not be accommodated and no configuration could be made on the network devices.

Taking into account the above stated requirements the IT managers of StepOver GmbH decided to choose VPN solution offered by INFOTECS GmbH. The present network topology and the lack of the mobile users determined that ViPNet TUNNEL software packet fits the best if choosing from ViPNet software products available by INFOTECS. The packet should have consisted of the five ViPNet Coordinators – five tunnel-server software modules, which should



have been installed in each location. The installation of the software modules including the building of the logic VPN structure, generating the keys, certificates etc. should have been accomplished in minimum time. In a one single location, the installation could have been accomplished remotely without the participation of the local IT staff, which is very cost-effective on an international scale of the enterprise.

The installation of the Tunnel Server also allows to use CRM System, Mail Server, the Version Manager (the administrative tool of the software set) and other local or cross-platform applications safely. The Tunnel Server allows not only to transmit the data securely over the Internet, but also to protect the Company's Know How thanks to the integrated Firewalls and access control to the internal network resources. The protection is implemented on the network level, independently from the protection mechanisms of the operating system and the application level.

ViPNet technology perfectly provides for the expansion of StepOver GmbH, which is planned for the nearest future, because ViPNet TUNNEL software packet can be easily and flexibly extended. To bind new German sales offices with the VPN the procedure of obtaining a subsequent Coordinator licenses is foreseen. For the mobile users in the new offices, there is a ViPNet Client software which could be installed on their notebooks and is meant for easy but highly secure access to the CRM system or corporate Mail Server.

The next important argument for choosing ViPNet technology is that VPN implementation should not only meet the technical and organizational requirements inside the enterprise, but also match the tough demands of the legal norms. By means of ViPNet Client software, the highly secure zone could be virtually delimited inside a single LAN. Thus, sensible data can be stored and transferred in a highly secure manner on all the stages of the development and production.

„ViPNet is an outstanding VPN solution from the technical point of view which is very usable and the complaisant support of INFOTECS GmbH is truly helpful. Especially when the matter concerns the aggregation of the new remote offices in the unified network there should by opportunity to rely not only upon the product itself but also on the partner support so that in complex situation there would be possibility to act fast and effective. That is why we are going to use ViPNet to bind our new offices to the existing VPN.“

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