



## **West Midlands Police uses biometric technology to control Identity Management**

West Midlands Police has successfully completed the world's first pilot to test the feasibility of combining secure physical and logical access, smart card/chip and pin technology, biometric authentication and the creation of a Single Sign-on to selected applications. The findings of the pilot have contributed to the forthcoming tender process for a full roll out.

Paul Williamson, the lead for the West Midlands Gateway Programme explains: "In partnership with AC Controls, Enline played a key role in the development of our strategy for our Identity Management pilot. Their experience in identity management has proved invaluable, not only in terms of setting up all the business processes and rules which were key to the success of this project, but also in terms of guidance regarding the best use of authentication technology. The initial POC didn't involve biometric authentication for controlling logical access – but at their recommendation, we added this technology into the mix and it has proved to be highly effective."

Biometric authentication forms a key part of the new identity management system which controls both physical and logical access to police systems at West Midlands.

In order to gain logical access (onto the network/domain/to applications), staff must have first been authenticated into the premises via a smart card and biometric fingerprint reader.

Biometric technology has proved particularly useful from a practical perspective for officers in a custody or public facing/front office environment - where there is a greater risk of losing or damaging smart cards. Fingerprint biometrics on keyboards provides instant, secure and direct access to all authorised applications/information.

"Feedback from the pilot indicates that staff appreciate the higher levels of security for both buildings and information systems and understand the need for the levels of sophisticated access that the system envelops. In addition the Single Sign-On access is proving both invaluable on a practical level and reducing the time spent by officers in accessing their information systems, that they now have instant access to all authorised applications without the need for remembering multiple passwords" Paul concluded.

Biometrics also adds a third layer, enabling triple authentication controls – allowing only senior management into restricted areas, such as through "the door within a door" to a "strategic location".

**About Enline plc**

Enline plc has established itself as a market leader in Identity and Access Management (I&AM) – providing solutions to customers across Public and Corporate sectors – from SSO through Web Access Control to Roles and Provisioning. Enline's Identity Connects™ uses a considered approach which ensures the successful delivery of Identity Management projects and realises business benefits.

Enline's client base, to which it provides consultancy, implementation and ongoing support services include Health, Local Authority, Police and Corporate organisations.

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