VANGUARD Authenticator ™

VANGUARD
INTEGRITY PROFESSIONALS
CYBERSECURITY EXPERTS

Authentication

Centralize authentication requests from many applications, devices and operating systems

Permissions

Allows IBM Security Server or z/OS to control access to a wide variety of devices and protocols

Simplified

Reduces the complexity for users by reducing the number of passwords required to remember

Vanguard Authenticator is a scalable, modular and integrated authentication solution that enables enterprises to control authentication and authorization to their enterprise.

Authenticator is a protocol converter and LDAP directory, that allows for simplification and centralization of security authentications services.

Key Features:

- Authenticator can centralize authentication requests from many applications, devices and operating systems.
- Provides conversion of multiple authentication protocols.
- Processes all incoming authentication requests and performs authentication.
- Integrates with other Vanguard solutions for an optimized security environment.

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Correlation and Consolidation Can Greatly Reduce Your Enterprise Security Costs

Reducing expense is a mandate of departments in every company; this is particularly true for those departments that are traditionally considered a "necessary cost" … like security. One opportunity that lies ahead of us, the one of securing heterogeneous environments, can actually be a huge driver of enterprise savings. First however, let's investigate how we got to the point of having heterogeneous environments. The way our environments have become heterogeneous is often the result of this cost-savings driver. We are led into the temptation to look for an affordable point solution that satisfies the need of a new platform, a "quick and dirty" way to prove compliance, or maybe a pure cloud security solution. The hidden cost invariably is the lack of integration. Every point solution brings a new management platform, new security processes to be introduced in the company and, of course, additional complexity.

Every quick fix turns out to be quick only once; the second time around things don't work out the way they did at first, or the solution doesn't meet the requirements of other regulations.

A product tuned to fit a specific architecture doesn't allow us to easily secure multiple points, so there either is a larger cost in doubling the solution or in a reduced level of security.

So what can or should we do? The answer is consolidation and correlation.

Consolidation tackles two aspects, which are extremely extensive in their impact on a security strategy. First, the security measures that are implemented need to work in heterogeneous environments. We cannot afford to have security measures dedicated to a specific architecture living isolated from everything else; it is costly and ineffective. How can any company be satisfied with a solution that fits well for a cloud architecture but not a traditional one? Not only do the management cost and time double, but the capacity to correlate events is seriously stretched.

Secondly, companies can less and less afford the cost, time and complexity of dealing with multiple (often dozens of) vendors. Consolidating the number of vendors on the one hand is often a guarantee of good integration among different areas of security (e.g. identity management and GRC). On the other, it gives companies time to concentrate the effort related to managing the relationship and obtaining better deals.

Is this an easy path? Not necessarily; this process requires good communication among departments, sometimes it might require the replacement of existing point solutions, and it requires a proactive approach to securing an IT environment, rather than just reacting to the latest security trend. Is this the best path? At Vanguard, we are strongly convinced it is; a consolidated security solution, one that secures heterogeneous environments and yet maintains a high level of integration, will reduce complexity and, consequently, minimize costs.

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The Solution: Vanguard Authenticator

Vanguard Authenticator is a scalable, modular, and integrated authentication solution that enables enterprises to control access to the entire IT infrastructure from a central location. The software makes it easier for enterprises to manage access because the number of user IDs is significantly reduced and users have a single password to remember and maintain.

Inexpensive to Deploy and Maintain

One Vanguard Authenticator server can process requests from any application, device, operating system, or process that supports authentication protocols including LDAP, TACACS+, RADIUS, or Vanguard's protocol - VAS. System administrators can secure all their heterogeneous systems by using the IBM z/OS Security Server. End users use their z/OS Security Server credentials to access other systems, applications and devices across the enterprise.

Decreased Security Threat Profile

Vanguard Authenticator provides centralized authentication for an enterprise's entire network infrastructure, which may be comprised of hundreds of devices such as routers, switches, applications, and operating systems. The Authenticator server processes all incoming authentication requests and performs authentication against the z/OS Security Server, the most trusted security system in the enterprise. Centralizing the enterprise authentication database on the z/OS Security Server significantly increases overall enterprise security.

Easy and Reduced Administration

The centralized Vanguard Authenticator server makes administration of users significantly easier. When used with other Vanguard applications, user authorization and other Authenticator administration can be done from a Single Secure Domain.

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Simple User Experience

Most enterprise end users maintain multiple user ID and password combinations. With Vanguard Authenticator, the number of user IDs is significantly decreased; users must only remember and maintain a single password.

Authenticator is a virtual directory that honors and responds to the following protocols:

- Terminal Access Controller Access Control System Plus (TACACS+) for authentication requests from network infrastructure equipment including routers, firewalls; and LAN, Ethernet, ATM and blade switches.
- Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service (RADIUS) for authentication requests from wireless switches, enterprise voice and video applications, and Wi-Fi enabled devices.
- Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) for authentication requests from web browsers, databases, and send mail; Authenticator passes all other requests to the original LDAP server for processing.
- Vanguard's proprietary protocol for customized access to other devices and systems that do not support LDAP, TACACS+ or RADIUS.

Authenticator Integrates with Other Vanguard Solutions Components for an Optimized Security Environment

- Vanguard ez/SignOn provides multi-platform enterprise wide sign on solutions.
- Vanguard PasswordReset enables users throughout the enterprise to reset their own passwords.
- Vanguard ez/Token provides an enterprise wide, token-based two-factor authentication.
- Vanguard Tokenless Two-Factor Authentication enables two-factor authentication across the enterprise using smart phones, tablets, smart devices, and more with no expensive tokens required.

Key Differentiators

- Simplifies administration of security for a diverse set of devices and protocols.
- Allows IBM Security Server or z/OS to control access to a wide variety of devices and protocols.
- Can reduce the complexity for users by reducing the number of passwords required to remember.

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Why Vanguard to Secure Your Enterprise?

Almost half of the Fortune 1000 companies in the world spanning banking, retail, insurance, as well as numerous government agencies trust Vanguard with their enterprise security.

About Vanguard Security Solutions

Vanguard offers the most advanced and integrated portfolio of enterprise security products and services in the world. The portfolio was the first to offer fully automated baseline configuration scanner for Mainframe DISA STIGs— the Gold Standard for Security.

For More Information

To learn more about Vanguard Security Solutions please call 702.794.0014 or visit www.go2vanguard.com

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