

# Working securely with aXsGUARD

SABCA'S COMPUTER NETWORK ALREADY MORE THAN 10 YEARS SECURE

**The aXsGUARD of VASCO already has a rich history. The network security of a number of companies matured together with the aXsGUARD. The network expanded, the Internet became more important and the difficulties and threats that accompanied these trends became more complex. SABCA is such a company. Ten years ago, the specialist in aerospace design bought the first version of the aXsGUARD and still works and surfs in a secure way. A chronicle of a decennium of trust.**



SABCA (Société Anonyme Belge de Constructions Aéronautiques) is a Belgian company that has been founded in 1920 and

is specialized in aerospace technology: design, production and support. The headquarter is located in Brussels, but SABCA also has a plant in Charleroi and a daughter company in Lummen. Currently, the company counts about 1000 employees. Like in every big company, SABCA can not afford that its network fails and security is an absolute must. But because of the confidential character of the information, security deserves detailed attention.

## PAST

"SABCA is active in the sector of civilian and military airplanes, but also in the aerospace segment. This kind of activity requires a lot of research and development. We need a system that keeps the data secure 24/7," explains Roland Soyes, head of the department Information Systems at SABCA.

Ten years ago, questions rose at SABCA about how employees could securely use e-mail and how the access to the internet could be

guaranteed. The former Able, recently acquired by VASCO, could convince Roland Soyes with its excellent references. "I remember that the predecessor of the aXsGUARD was already set up at different banks and that it was thoroughly tested. The "blue box" (aXsGUARD) would give us secure access to the internet. We haven't regretted our choice one moment. Originally only a few employees used e-mail, but as the digital revolution hit home, our network needed more capacity and a more powerful server. That's why we did two hardware updates during the last ten years and why we opted for a second ADSL-line to support the really large files".

## PRESENT

Currently, there are two aXsGUARDs Enterprise placed before the network in Brussels. This headquarter is connected with the plant in Charleroi, where also an aXsGUARD has been placed. Lummen has its own network, but is protected in the same way. SABCA uses almost every functionality that the aXsGUARD has to offer. There is the firewall that filters the incoming and outgoing internet traffic. The administrator has imposed a couple of security rules to the users. Certain files, like MP3 files, can not be downloaded: they take up too much space and they have an increased risk of malware. Besides that the aXsGUARD serves as mailserver and protects the network against spam, viruses and phishing. The statistics and log files per user give an overview of what is happening on the network. aXsGUARD also secures a DMZ-server (demilitarized zone) between the LAN and the Internet. Outsiders can, for example, put large files on the FTP-server

without burdening the internal network.

The configuration and the parameters are being entered and adapted through a simple web interface. It is that application that gained the approval of André Baus, IT-technical Manager at SABCA: "Although the dangers of the Internet become more numerous and more complex and therefore also the functionalities, the web interface stays user friendly. Our company grows, our current needs differs from those in the past, but aXsGUARD grows along with us, both in size and in the field of functionalities. When there are a lot of innovations on the agenda, we organize an informative session with the people of VASCO. Afterwards we can continue to independently



*aXs GUARD Enterprise*



adapt the parameters according to our own wishes at that time. The configuration never gets lost, because VASCO always makes a back-up which can immediately restore our environment if that would be necessary.”

aXsGUARD is developed from the thought that an organization is continuously changing. The total solution unites hardware, software, support, installation and training.

Often, support services make or break an IT-product. And according to André Baus, VASCO's support is so excellent that SABCA's confidence in VASCO has only grown.

“In general, we do not need to consult our partner often, because we adapt the parameters ourselves. If we do have questions about new modules or specific configurations, there is always an excellent helpdesk. aXsGUARD

indicates when software updates are available. Those updates can happen automatically, but we prefer to decide ourselves when we update,” Baus continues.

#### FUTURE

SABCA also wants to equip some employees with DIGIPASS. VASCO's server authentication platform, VACMAN Controller, is natively integrated in aXsGUARD. This would allow SABCA-employees to get secure remote access to the network via a one-time password. This strong authentication assures an even better network security and would be used by users who are often traveling, like commercial employees.

“As a result of our many years of cooperation, we follow the advice of VASCO regarding network security. Now the trend inclines to strong authentication, we surely want to participate in that.”

In a world where soft- and hardware products come and go, the aXsGUARD remains a fixed value. André Baus: “You know what it is? In IT you often come across products that do not do what was promised, that are too complicated, or that just disappear. And then you are stuck with your solution. After ten years, the aXsGUARD still stays the preamble of everything concerning internet security: reliable, efficient and easy to configure.”



## About SABCA



SABCA is a leading Belgian Aerospace company since more than 86 years, employing 1000 highly trained persons. SABCA is active in civil aircraft design and manufacturing (Airbus, Dassault), military aircraft overhaul and upgrades (F16, F5, helicopters, etc.) as well as in space programs (Ariane, Vega). These activities cover structural work as well as servo-actuators and systems integration. SABCA has plants in Brussels and Charleroi and a fully owned subsidiary SABCA LIMBURG nv, specialized in aerospace composites.

## About VASCO

VASCO designs, develops, markets and supports patented DIGIPASS® user authentication products for the financial world, remote access, e-business and e-commerce. With tens of millions of DIGIPASS® products sold, VASCO has established itself as a world leader for Strong Users Authentication for e-Banking and Enterprise Security for blue-chip corporations and governments worldwide.

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