



Hybrid work situation of insurance staff and local administrators rendered simpler, more secure, and more transparent with contextual platform

Kaufmännische Krankenkasse (KKH) is one of the leading statutory health insurance companies in Germany. Accordingly, requirements are high when it comes to the handling of the personal health data of insured individuals. In order to guarantee an optimal security standard at all times, to protect system access for local administrators to the maximum extent, and to make remote work as easy as possible, Dominik Kletke, a member of staff in the IT Infrastructure & Architecture team at KKH, started to search for a suitable software solution.

## **Protection against Trojans and rash actions**

In a large organization with some 4,000 employees who deal with information either directly or indirectly that has to comply with the highest data protection requirements, data security is the top priority. Consequently, the company tries to act in a way that is as forward-looking as possible. In 2019, a year in which cyberattacks increased disproportionately, the decision was taken at KKH to introduce an additional level of security.

Dominik Kletke: "We want to better safeguard users with increased privileges. It was also clear to us that the handling of USB sticks and DVDs, which were used for data exchange, could become critical. For that reason, we wanted to introduce a system that safeguards such handling accordingly." The company's secondary wish was to be able to manage access to such removable media in a group-based manner via Active Directory to ensure further data protection.

In addition to these plans, the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic had to be considered at the start of 2020. Specifically, as many insurance employees as possible were to work from home within the shortest period of time. This created an extremely hybrid system and work situation. Access to the company network and so to KKH resources had to be safeguarded through the verification of up-to-dateness and the existence of various security features on the connecting end devices. Around 3,200 users in the service centers and home offices, as well as some 800 office desks in the main administrative building, were affected by this sit

#### Prevention is better than a cure

deviceTRUST was able to win through in a tendering procedure held by KKH. It offers the best opportunity to quickly, productively, and effectively improve the situation and minimize risks. "The decisive argument in favor of deviceTRUST was its seamless integration into the existing infrastructure. The fact that you could proceed directly through Active Directory was crucial for us, as it opened up interesting options," Kletke recalls. And so it came about that he implemented deviceTRUST in a concerted campaign, in his capacity as head of the launch, alongside colleagues who are responsible for Active Directory and Citrix. Initially, almost 800 fat clients and over 200 notebooks were fitted out with it. The rollout through Citrix took place gradually, meaning that, as of early summer, all devices belonging to over 4,000 staff members were safeguarded through deviceTRUST.

While the employees who had to continue working in the main administrative building despite the pandemic were provided for first, the notebooks of home office workers had to be equipped subsequently. Since that point, they have been able to access all resources of relevance to them via secure data access. This works by deviceTRUST collating and updating contextual information – both locally and remotely. Via two-factor authentication (hardware and software token), KKH employees can quickly, conveniently, and securely access everything that they need to ensure productive work. Kletke: "deviceTRUST has helped us to meet the security requirements that hybrid work involves.

Our split organization is functioning optimally. This means that we are equipped for the future, as remote work is set to remain a permanent element even after the pandemic."

deviceTRUST ensures that our staff can work securely, even from home offices. Risks that arise through cyberattacks can be successfully minimized in this way.

Dominik Kletke, IT-Infrastruktur & Architektur KKH Kaufmännische Krankenkasse

# Increased security and transparency, plus better troubleshooting

Alongside the reduction of risks and full integration, it is pleasing that user feedback on deviceTRUST has also been good. Administrators welcome the fact that they can react more quickly to any problems thanks to monitoring options and event logging. They also expect support requests to decline in the long term, as more and more errors can be prevented in advance.

In turn, users are happy not to have to worry about data security. As the system issues a warning in the event of any danger, they can actively prevent potential cyberattacks. "Employees are delighted to have a security system like deviceTRUST and the associated protection of sensitive data," reports Kletke, detailing the positive feedback received on deviceTRUST. He is even able to envisage a scenario in which the added value and effects are so wide-reaching that old solutions can be dispensed with in the long term. "So, alongside the security improvements, we might even be able to save some money."

I can warmly recommend deviceTRUST to other companies – not least due to our positive experience. Anyone who operates digital workspaces should use deviceTRUST in my opinion, as it is an investment that is worthwhile and quickly pays for itself.

Dominik Kletke, IT-Infrastruktur & Architektur **KKH Kaufmännische Krankenkasse** 

# At a glance

# Challenge

To safeguard access to USB mass storage devices and optical media, the company started the search for a simple but effective solution in 2019. Increasing problems with Trojans and the fact that the exchange of data was handled via USB sticks and DVDs made the introduction of an overarching security strategy necessary. The safeguarding of privileged users with access to the Internet was also a focus.

#### Solution

To solve the problem, the company wanted to introduce a system based on Active Directory that would allow it to more reliably protect the various end devices in a group-based manner. The aim was to make the digital workspace and home offices (remote work) as secure as possible, while ensuring user-friendliness. Through the introduction of the contextual deviceTRUST platform, KKH succeeded in guaranteeing that administrators and home office users can work securely.

#### Result

The digital workspaces of administrators and people working in home offices are now secure at all times. Via the monitoring function of deviceTRUST, problems that emerge can be reacted to earlier. In addition, a reduction in the number of support requests is expected once deviceTRUST has been fully rolled out for all areas. In the long term, KKH is also considering dispensing with existing software solutions to reduce license expenditure.



# About deviceTRUST

The right IT security strategy is essential in a hybrid work environment. With the Contextual Security platform, deviceTRUST enables to work with secure digital workspaces from any location, with any device, over any network and at any time. Meanwhile, it gives IT departments all the information and control they need to meet all security, compliance and regulatory requirements. The strong partnerships with the leading technology platforms and the easy integration into any existing workspace management solution convince customers from all industries. The context is always up-to-date and any change triggers a definable action. With the device as an additional factor, deviceTRUST takes conditional access to the next level and is the optimal extension to zero trust strategies.

For more information, visit: devicetrust.com



### About KKH Käufmännische Krankenkasse

With over 1.6 million insured persons, Kaufmännische Krankenkasse (KKH) is one of the largest statutory health insurance companies in Germany. KKH has a broad range of insurance offers and supports insured persons with the development of a health-promoting lifestyle. Along-side traditional insurance benefits, KKH's offers include individual health coaching by telephone to support therapeutic measures. In over 110 service centers in all German states, around 3,900 employees provide advice and assistance for insured persons. The company has its headquarters in Hanover.

For more information, visit: kkh.de/englisch