Centralized enrollment and authentication of Microsoft Intune-managed devices

Public school cooperative Erie 1 BOCES was looking for a solution to authenticate mobile devices of students and faculty for Wi-Fi access. PrimeKey EJBCA, with its integration with Microsoft Intune was the scalable, cost-efficient, and easy-to-use solution they were looking for.

Erie 1 BOCES is a New York state board of cooperative educational services that delivers state-of-the-art technology and support to more than 100 school districts across 7 counties. It was established as a way for local school districts to collaborate on services and to reduce their individual expenses. As such, scaleable, cost-effective, and centrally-managed solutions are highly preferred.

When Steven Duckworth, Chief Microcomputer Technical Support Specialist at Erie 1 BOCES, was looking for a solution to authenticate district-owned devices of their students and faculty for Wi-Fi access, he knew it would need to be scaleable, cost-effective, and easy-to-use.

Securely enabling a modern cloud architecture
Duckworth and his colleagues have been transforming Erie 1 BOCES for years to a modern approach to managed IT services. Erie 1 BOCES and its districts leverages cloud services, such as Microsoft Azure Active Directory and Microsoft Office 365, so it made sense to turn to Microsoft Intune for its corporate device management.

According to Duckworth, due to the COVID-19 pandemic,

districts started to inquire about remote management of Windows devices and Microsoft Intune for remote instruction. Microsoft Intune would enable the IT staff of Erie 1 BOCES and districts to enroll their laptops to push apps, policy and certificates to those devices in order to authenticate them against their Wi-Fi network. However, Duckworth also required a third-party solution to manage the PKI and certificate process.

"It was important to authenticate devices in a secure manner, which required a public-facing certificate management solution since the devices were bound to Azure AD," said Duckworth.

EJBCA – scaleable, cost-effective and easy-to-use
During the RFP process, Erie 1 BOCES rejected other vendors that were charging per certificate. The costs were adding up.

"I started doing the math…if each device required a certificate across dozens of districts, the costs would be astronomical: more than $250,000 per year," remarked Duckworth.

PrimeKey stood out with its flexible approach to enterprise PKI and certificate management. Its cloud-based deployment would enable remote management of multiple school districts in different locations, at a fraction of the cost.

"EJBCA is scaleable, cost-effective, and easy-to-use, which enables our organization to remotely enroll and authenticate Microsoft Intune-managed devices for students and faculty across many school districts and counties," said Duckworth.

Deployment was a breeze. Erie 1 BOCES integrated PrimeKey with Microsoft Intune in about two weeks and has issued certificates to thousands of devices. Now there are plans to extend this deployment to thousands of other devices as well.

Duckworth concluded, "There was the potential that integrating a full-lifecycle certificate management solution would be a heavy lift, especially from the technical side, but it was definitely not an issue – PrimeKey made it easy, every step of the way."

Facts

Customer:
Erie 1 BOCES, New York state board of cooperative educational services

Challenge:
Authenticate district-owned devices for secure Wi-Fi access, by integration with Microsoft Azure and Microsoft Intune for cloud-based certificate management.
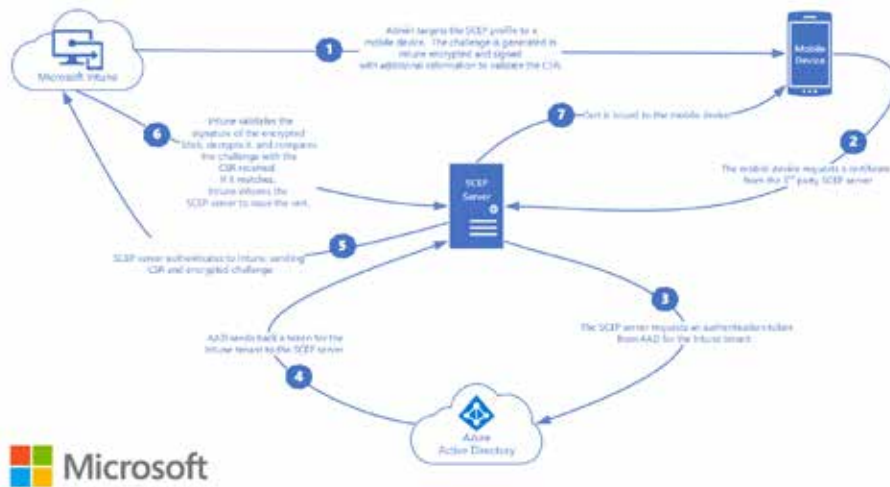
Solution:
Centralized remote enrollment and authentication of Microsoft Intune-managed devices for school districts across seven counties, by leveraging PrimeKey's EJBCA Enterprise for PKI and certificate integration.

"EJBCA is scalable, cost-effective, and easy-to-use, which enables our organization to remotely enroll and authenticate Microsoft Intune-managed devices for students and faculty across many school districts and counties."

Steven Duckworth, Chief Microcomputer Technical Support Specialist for Erie 1 BOCES

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PrimeKey ®
by KEYFACTOR ®

Third-Party Certification Authority SCEP Integration with Microsoft Intune

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Benefits

PrimeKey EJBCA:

- Powerful, flexible, and easy-to-use. A full-lifecycle solution.
- Issue, manage, and revoke certificates with Certificate Authorities (CA), Registration Authorities (RA) and Validation Authorities (VA).
- Cloud-based deployment enables remote management and scaleable licensing.

Microsoft Intune integration:

- 3rd party PKI and certificate management.
- Remotely enroll and authenticate Microsoft Intune managed mobile devices .
- Native support for Azure Key Vault

About PrimeKey

PrimeKey is one of the world's leading companies for PKI and digital signing solutions. As of June 2021, PrimeKey is a part of Keyfactor. With our EJBCA Enterprise, SignServer Enterprise and the PrimeKey SEE products, we deliver the capability to implement an enterprise grade PKI system ready to support solutions such as IoT, e-ID, e-Passports, authentication, digital signatures, code signing, digital identities, and validation; all solutions where digital certificates would be a main enabler. Choose to deploy your solution as flexible software, in a robust hardware or software Appliance, in the Cloud, as a Service in the Cloud, or in a hybrid deployment adapted to your business needs.

The PrimeKey products are used in all types of industries where IT security and integrity is a priority. Our products are Common Criteria and FIPS certified, we have numerous Webtrust/ETSI and eIDAS audited installations, and our internal processes are ISO 9001, 14001, and 27001 certified.

PrimeKey has offices in Stockholm, Sweden; Aachen, Germany; Paris, France; San Mateo, USA and Melbourne, Australia. Together with our global network of technology and resell partners we are proud to count many of the industry leading companies and institutions within IT, Telecom, Banking, Industrial, Public CAs, and different branches of Government as our long-time customers. For more information, please visit www.primekey.com or follow on LinkedIn and Twitter.

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