

OpenX Secures Macs Globally, Eases Deployment of File Vault and 802.1X Security



Founded in 2008, OpenX helps digital publishers by monetizing content. The company operates one of the largest programmatic advertising marketplaces in the world, with more than 1,200 publisher partners worldwide.



“Our most important need was transparent control of Apple File Vault for disk encryption. Data is now locked if a Mac is lost or stolen.”

Akash Patel
IT Manager, OpenX



The Challenge

Secure a rapidly growing mixed network of PCs and Macs and protect corporate data with encryption and backup. Push out consistent security policies and enable 802.1X network security.

With data centers around the globe, OpenX has always had a user choice policy — PC or Mac — for its employees. Significant and rapid growth caused strain on the IT infrastructure, risks multiplied, and ultimately there were no security controls over the hybrid environment. Management took steps to begin securing digital assets, resulting in the creation of a new Active Directory architecture from which to apply consistent policies for both platforms.

“It’s really difficult to manage Macs on a large scale, and it got to the point where it was a free-for-all,” says IT Manager Akash Patel. “We had to put some controls on how devices were being managed.”

In addition to consolidating identity based on Active Directory, Patel and his team planned to use data encryption and back-up to guard sensitive data in the event that Macbooks were lost or stolen.



The Solution

Centrify enabled the company to store encrypted File Vault backups on company servers and apply consistent data encryption policies. If a Mac is lost or stolen, the encrypted data on the machine is inaccessible and OpenX employees can access the back-up using an enterprise key.

OpenX was able to deploy a data encryption and storage solution for PCs using Caspar and Bitlocker, but the company had not been able to leverage File Vault, an Apple application that encrypts local data and integrates back-up options with the Mac operating system.

Patel and the IT team implemented Centrify to join Macs to Active Directory. “On the first day, I was able to install it, deploy the agent to the first machine and log in to Active Directory,” Patel said. “After that, a team of four tested the solution to insure it was rock solid, and pushed everything out to 200 Mac users one-at-a-time, performing white glove, hands-on support for every user.”

Now, each new Mac is set up using a Centrify-provided script that applies local policies, sets preferences for backing up encrypted data on OpenX servers, and provides the company with an institutional key for unlocking the encrypted data if necessary. If a Mac is ever lost or stolen, OpenX employees can access the backup while the machine’s local data remains encrypted and inaccessible.



More recently, OpenX launched a comprehensive 802.1X security network program for wired and wireless machines, and Patel was pleasantly surprised with Centrify's automatic 802.1 policy provisioning. "It was painless and seamless for us to deploy a segmented network," he said. "Since Centrify creates a pure object for Active Directory, that's how VLAN assignments are allocated for Macs. We just put in the name of the template and it automatically works."

"Centrify streamlines policy implementation so our data is never compromised."

Akash Patel
IT Manager, OpenX

"Using Centrify, we were able to increase security for our Mac users with 802.1X wired port authentication."

Akash Patel
IT Manager, OpenX



The Results

Centrify is part of a complex mix of applications designed to achieve high levels of security, including recent deployment of an 802.1X network. OpenX found that Centrify's recent 802.1X provisioning provided a simple and seamless transition.

The number of Mac users at OpenX has now doubled to 400, and Patel says he and the OpenX staff have saved incalculable numbers of hours due to streamlined procedures.

"PC or Mac, we have a machine configured and ready to go on the first day a new user is here," says Patel. "The employee is productive on day one, and regardless of how much or how fast we've grown, we've made sure that happens. A large part of our ability to do that is because of Centrify."

As with any company operating at such a global scale, Patel says the OpenX is a frequent target for hackers. "Centrify streamlines policy implementation so our data is never compromised."



Centrify is the leader in securing enterprise identities against cyberthreats that target today's hybrid IT environment of cloud, mobile and on-premises. The Centrify Identity Platform protects against the leading point of attack used in data breaches — compromised credentials — by securing an enterprise's internal and external users as well as its privileged accounts. www.centrifys.com.

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