



S-KEY

Simple. Safe. Secure.

Case Study

Improving access security for a Defence company

S-Key's biometric, fingerprint activated, access solution adds a key security layer for high-risk environments.

Secure physical access control is vital in the Defence industry, where the risk of any failure in security measures, including those with two-factor authentication, could have severe consequences.

At a leading UK Defence company, S-Key's fingerprint activated biometric access control cards improved security at low cost and with significant added benefits.





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The Issue:

how to maximise security

The company uses access control cards alone or with two-factor authentication (password or PIN) for physical access control. They are always looking for new technologies which add further security layers to strengthen their security and minimise the risk of breaches.

Biometric fingerprint authentication provides a positive security layer which eliminates the risk of abuse or human error associated with passwords or PINs.

“Biometric authentication clearly delivers an extra layer of security to our access control systems, which is vital in the Defence industry,”

- Site Security Manager

Our Defence client was keen to trial S-Key fingerprint-activated access control cards, asking six key questions:

Do these cards provide added security?

How easy is it to enrol and evaluate?

What are the costs of implementation?

Can biometric access control cards be used for secure printing or logical access too?

How will personal data be handled?

What is the user experience?



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The Solution: biometric access control cards

Selected security and cleaning staff who frequently move around the site were given S-Key cards, covering over 130 physical access control points.

All users were swiftly enrolled and secured appropriate access using the company's existing NFC access card reader infrastructure.

“The use of S-Key at our premises showed that their fingerprint activated access control cards are simple to set up, safe and secure – with the added benefit of being low cost. It’s a great product.”

- Site Security Staff



-  **Tighter Control:** Maintain 2-Factor Authentication, with additional security layer possible (3FA)
-  **Removes Threat from Card Loss:** Only named individual can use the card to gain access
-  **Scalable & Easy to Adopt:** Works with existing access control systems, no changes required
-  **Better Privacy & GDPR Compliance:** Fingerprint hash encrypted and stored on the card (never leaves the card)
-  **Improved Hygiene:** Secure, contactless entry now possible post COVID-19 pandemic



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The Results:

- 1 Additional security layer:** 100% of the S-Key biometric access cards were read by the company's existing NFC card readers. By linking access to an individual fingerprint, S-Key access control cards ensured that physical access could only be granted to the authorised person. This immediately removed the security risk of lost, stolen or borrowed cards.
- 2 Simple to set up:** 100% of the smart card credentials registered correctly with the company's security management software, and 100% of users successfully enrolled their choice of fingerprint onto their biometric card.
- 3 Low implementation costs:** S-Key cards worked 'out of the box' with the company's existing NFC/13.56 MHz card-readers, providing quick and easy biometric authentication without any additional infrastructure costs.
- 4 Successful convergent access:** the cards were also successfully tested for access to secure printing on multi-function (MFD) printers. FIDO2 will shortly be available on S-Key to further enable passwordless login to the client's computer systems.
- 5 Personal data secure:** biometric fingerprint data was held securely on individual cards within the holder's personal control. This addressed privacy concerns, facilitated GDPR compliance for the company and reassured users that their personal information was safe.
- 6 Good user experience:** already familiar with fingerprint authentication for personal devices, staff easily adapted to the need to register their fingerprints. All users were correctly denied access if they did not present their fingerprint properly with the card.



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Secure and sustainable access control

The trial showed S-Key's biometric access control cards to be robust despite containing a biometric sensor – the cards are water-resistant and continued to work under everyday handling and conditions.

S-Key's innovative power-harvesting technology also worked efficiently throughout. New security features require additional power, but unlike other cards S-Key has no battery. Instead, Freevolt technology is used to harness Radio Frequency (RF) energy from card readers, so the cards can be used indefinitely and batteries are not wasted: a more sustainable choice for the Defence client.

S-Key access control cards work with all major biometric card readers:



GET IN TOUCH

For further information please contact:

E: info@freevolt.tech

T: +44 (0) 203 176 2350

W: freevolt.tech/s-key