

Case Study YONDEN BUSINESS Co. Ltd

The Personal Information Privacy Law of Japan and Bsafe/Enterprise Security (Bsafe/ES)

The Implementation Team

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The Requirement

1. To secure personal privacy information in several business areas.
2. To achieve compliance with the Japanese Act on the Protection of Personal Privacy.

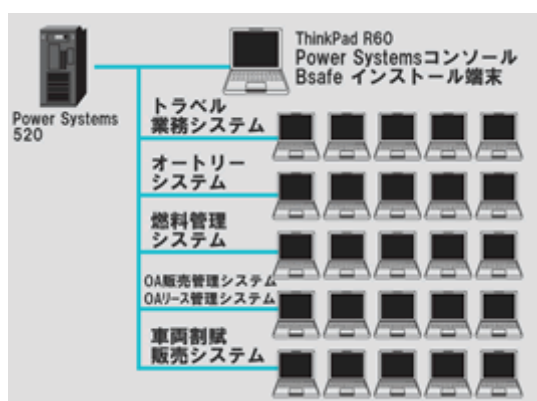
Highlights of Evaluation and Installation

1. Trial of Bsafe/Enterprise Security
2. Comparing GUI interface with CUI (character user interface) and finding the GUI more intuitive and easy to use.
3. Choosing of Bsafe/Enterprise security as an internal financial control tool.
4. Initial basic setup of Bsafe security,
5. Extension of the auditing to cover the customer DB as well.

The Company and its Systems

Yonden Business Co. Ltd. is fully-owned subsidiary of Shikoku Electric Power Co. Inc. a general trading firm spread across all four prefectures of Shikoku, Japan's fourth largest island. The extent of Yonden's activity is wide, and includes building, real-estate, auto sales and leasing, engineering works, electric facilities, construction materials, machine appliances, environment, advertising, office support services, insurance, travel, hotels, store management, and more. "There is almost no business that we do not deal with," says Mr. Yoichi Kawakami, Chief of the Accounting Department System.

The different businesses handled by Yonden Business Co. largely have their own information systems and databases. Therefore, the process of making the company compliant with the Privacy Law would have to be done, one system at a time.



The first installation of IBM Power Systems (AS/400) was in 1990. Since then, it has been upgraded every five years. When the current hardware was upgraded in 2006 to IBM Power Systems model 520, it was decided the time had come to examine a suitable security tool.

Mr. Kawakami explained the importance of security tool implementation, as follows: "Compliance with the Personal Information Privacy Law was our main consideration. We handle a great deal of private personal information on the IBM i, through our travel company and vehicle leasing activities". The company had always implemented strict controls to ensure privacy of their customers but it was the need to comply with the Personal Information Privacy Law that prompted

them to search for more sophisticated and powerful measures. "We examined the requirements closely and found the combination of Power Systems security and the Bsafe/Enterprise Security tool offered a powerful and efficient solution", said Mr. Kawakami.

New Solutions to Current Limitations

The Yonden software team was familiar with the IBM i system journal. They knew its strengths and its limitations. Mr. Shunji Shidoya, of the Accounting Department System explains "I could not check logs immediately. Tracing is difficult and is hard to follow in a CUI-based tool" (CUI is short for character user interface, referring here to the IBM i commands). The number of systems and the importance given by Yonden to system auditing can be understood by the fact that the company employed six system experts. Mr. Shidoya added, "We wanted to improve the efficiency of the system team by reducing the load on them and improving their productivity. This would allow us to achieve a reduction in labor and faster reaction times. These were the major factors which influenced the decision to implement a new security tool".

Main Considerations for Choosing a Security Tool

There were three important requirements requested by the Systems Section in charge of this security implementation. They were:

1. Precise monitoring of end-user operation history.
2. The ability to discover the causes of information leakage.
3. Ease of use and operation.

As a result, Bsafe/Enterprise Security was suggested by SOLPAC for consideration.

Mr. Manabu Yoshimura (Chief of System Group) of OA Division recalls, "I knew about Bsafe/ES and its sales success in Japan. But on the basis of the Systems Section and their needs, we compared Bsafe with another security tool. We found it to be easy to operate, based on a GUI, and it had the capability to help us understand and track the operation history easily. We felt Bsafe/ES was the best

choice. The other security tool we tested did not come up to the demands of the Systems Section, partly because of it being based on the CUI”.

Bsafe/ES, Intuitive and Easy to Use.

We installed Bsafe/ES straight after the 9406-520 hardware installation. We began transferring the systems from the old computer, one by one, as each application is very different from the others. In March 2007 we started with the travel business system, then, in November, we implemented the fuel oil management and auto lease systems.

We set up the security requirements in Bsafe for each application, following its installation. Mr. Shidoya, in charge of the migration, said: "We experimented with various setting methods, and made the basic settings without difficulty. Bsafe/ES has many advanced functions, and I feel we still have much to learn to get the most out of them”.

On the management side, Mr. Shidoya was particularly happy with Bsafe’s ability to save log reports in CSV form and to import them into Excel – something he described as “very simple”. He explained why: “Previously, it was necessary to modify the log data to print a report to paper. The intuitive operation of Bsafe, and the fact that we can export reports to electronic documents, has contributed to a considerable saving in management time and cost”.

Mr. Shidoya recalls how the version of Bsafe/ES they used at first, didn’t offer PDF format as one of the options for the log report export. “This was one of our demands”, he said. SOLPAC brought this request to the attention of Bsafe and the feature has since been added to the product.

Raising the Security Level – Auditing Activity and Database Update History

Yondon has a policy of producing an information security report twice a year. It is prepared by the Systems Section and its purpose is to report statistics of server infections, breaches and suspected malicious behavior.

The aim is to raise security awareness by reporting incidents, to prevent future

occurrences, and to act as a deterrent against malicious users.

Mr. Kawakami shares the following details: "Our investigations have shown that we catch some 97% of unauthorized activity and this is largely due to our choice of tool (Bsafe), which was made with high security needs in mind".

Mr. Kawakami describes the daily activities: "We monitor the access log every day and pay particular attention to signing on to and off of the database server. He estimates that this point alone has greatly shortened the maintenance management time for security auditing activity."

Today they have extended the auditing activity to monitor not only applications but also operations on the customer database and its update history. Mr. Shidoya said: "We still have more work to fine tune and improve access control. By careful planning and using Bsafe's many group definition options, we will keep our maintenance and management costs down to a minimum". He adds: "We are using Bsafe auditing and reporting to help formulate our plan of security measures which will provide a complete answer to internal financial control and to the Privacy Law".

Mr. Kawakami concludes: "It seems that Bsafe/ES had become the security base of our company".

YONDEN BUSINESS Co., Ltd.

Established: 1961

Main office: Takamatsu, Kagawa, Japan

Capital: 3 hundred million yen

Gross Sales: 342 hundred million yen (as of 2006)

Number of employees: 525 (as of March, 2007)

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