



Strong Authentication Discovery Workshop

■ Background

Enterprises recognise the limitation and risk posed by "single factor authentication", typically a password, which can be compromised by social engineering, network traffic capture, brute force, keystroke logging, etc. The extension / blurring of the enterprise perimeter by use of internet based VPN connectivity and applications delivered through browsers such as OWA and Citrix means that those single factors are extremely vulnerable, being exposed on un-managed terminals and untrusted networks. It is widely accepted that to mitigate the risk of the compromise of single factor based authentication, stronger authentication methods are necessary.

■ Workshop

Given the multitude of scenarios, permutations and usability / security considerations (not to mention vendors and technologies), taking the first steps can be daunting. A tested and proven approach which has proven invaluable for customers is the discovery workshop; an effective way of eliciting and sharing information.

The discovery workshop is a standard component of the Oxford Computer Group methodology; the value for the customer is education, expert guidance and a set of deliverables to support the business case and help plan for moving forward.

■ Aims and Objectives

The aim of the discovery workshop is to:

- Elicit and share information from project stakeholders
- Educate on the core technologies which could be applied to meet the particular scenarios being considered
- Achieve a common understanding of project aims and objectives
- Agree key roles and responsibilities for the project lifecycle



■ Discovery Workshop Structure

The discovery workshop is typically conducted in a single day, with a further two days to author the discovery workshop report. The discovery workshop has two principal streams, focussed on business and technical aspects of delivering the solution. The exact scope of the workshop would be agreed in advance, and would aim to cover at least the following fundamental elements:

- Review of business requirement for implementing strong authentication
- Evaluation and review of impacted IT infrastructure such as AD, network, messaging, etc.
- Identification of critical success factors and service levels dictating HA and DR, etc.
- Technical presentation and demonstration of strong authentication technologies
- Knowledge transfer in a number of strong authentication technologies
- Discuss best practice and known problem areas based upon Oxford Computer Group's expertise and experience

■ Discovery Workshop Report

The output from the workshop is synthesised into a discovery workshop report, containing at least the following core elements:

- Vision statement and solution objectives
- Capture of essential business requirements and critical success factors
- High-level solution design overview
- Accurate budgetary forecasts for product and services
- High-level project plan and scope
- Identification of areas where further information / investigation is required

■ What Next

The follow on to the workshop would typically be the design and implementation of a proof of concept environment, either as a standalone deliverable or more likely as part of an engagement to design, engineer and deploy the proposed solution.



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About Oxford Computer Group

Oxford Computer Group (OCG) is an IT service company that specializes in Identity & Access Management. With operations in North America, the UK, Benelux and Germany, OCG has an enviable repository of expertise, solution components and training courses. OCG has deployed 300+ enterprise-wide identity and access solutions and our instructors have trained over 3000 people on Microsoft IDA technologies. We understand identity and access management — benefit from our experience and capability.