

Case Study

Symantec and SafeLogic brought FIPS 140-2 validated encryption to Symantec Mobility: Suite



SafeLogic



Symantec™

The Background

Symantec Mobility: Suite (formerly Nukona) is a leading mobile application and content management (MAM) solution that secures all corporate data on mobile devices by uniquely enabling enterprise grade security on a per-app basis, without requiring any source code changes or an embedded SDK.

Data security on mobile devices via ‘military grade’ encryption is fundamental to Symantec Mobility: Suite. For sales to US Federal Government entities, any solution that uses encryption must also be verified as compliant to the Federal Government Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 140-2 standard. Adherence to FIPS 140-2 has quickly become the de-facto standard and a ‘must have’ for large enterprises as well, especially in the finance sector. Chris Perret, Nukona CEO and Co-Founder, explains how FIPS 140-2 became a major requirement for Mobility: Suite.

“We released the App Center in 2011 and it was getting great reviews. We had a robust and really differentiated product out there, were engaged in a large number of opportunities with major organizations worldwide and were being recognized as industry leaders in the BYOD space... Things were going great.

But then I started getting a lot of feedback from the field, both in US and internationally, that we were being asked by both government and enterprise organizations about the status of our FIPS compliance. Additionally, some of our competition were quick to exploit this to spread FUD about us in the marketplace.”

Perret looked at the traditional FIPS 140 validation process and knew that it would be time consuming, costly, and resource intensive. Additionally, certifications could be difficult to maintain for a product developing new features and versions as quickly as Nukona App Center, now known as Mobility: Suite.

Perret continued, *“We needed to do something about this, or our momentum could stall - we needed to find a new way to fix it – and quickly!”*

The Challenge

Perret tasked his co-founder and CTO Jeff Enderwick with the FIPS requirement. While under pressure to find a way to achieve FIPS compliance as quickly as possible, Enderwick knew that he needed to do so without breaking the bank or diverting too many resources from core development tasks. He also knew they could not afford the time to pursue FIPS validation through the traditional path.

The Solution

Enderwick turned for advice to Ray Potter, a former colleague who led all of Cisco’s compliance programs while Enderwick led security software development.

Potter, widely recognized in the industry as one of the foremost authorities on FIPS and standards certifications and now CEO at SafeLogic, explained how CryptoComply, a standards-based cryptographic library for servers, appliances, and mobile devices could provide “Drop-in Compliance” for the Symantec Mobility: Suite and enable full compliance with FIPS 140 and Suite B in a fraction of the time and cost of traditional approaches.

Symantec Achieved FIPS 140-2 Compliance for App Center Quickly and Easily

Symantec needed to reach FIPS 140-2 compliance in order to sell App Center to Federal government. FIPS compliance and validation is traditionally a long, expensive and resource-intensive process.

Symantec considered several options, including open systems and proprietary crypto offerings, before selecting CryptoComply from SafeLogic.

CryptoComply Meets All Objectives

CryptoComply is a standards-based cryptographic library for servers, appliances, and mobile devices that provides instant compliance for FIPS 140 and Suite B.

SafeLogic enabled Symantec to achieve FIPS compliance in a fraction of the normal time with minimal resources and at greatly reduced overall cost, thanks to the unique “Drop-in Compliance” crypto libraries of CryptoComply.

Easy Path to Validation

The RapidCert program from SafeLogic subsequently allowed Symantec App Center to achieve a formal FIPS 140-2 certificate in Symantec’s name.

Since working with SafeLogic, Symantec has benefited from significant competitive advantages in both government and enterprise markets.

Strong Support

CryptoComply is FIPS-tested on a variety of platforms and comes with:

- Comprehensive API documentation
- Call graphs to facilitate integration
- Build scripts and instructions
- Strong support

Easy Implementation and Rapid Compliance

Because Symantec Mobility: Suite was already using OpenSSL, it was a perfect example of how “Drop-in Compliance” adds value.

Enderwick explained, *“The actual integration was amazingly fast and easy. With the help of the SafeLogic support team, it only took one of my developers two weeks to replace the old crypto library, drop in the CryptoComply package and complete initial testing.*

As far as I am concerned, we shrank a 2 year project down to 2 weeks. In fact, it was just like ‘push the button’ and it was done!”

Symantec initially licensed CryptoComply for both iOS and Android and had the entire project wrapped up, from initial call to SafeLogic to FIPS compliance in a new version release, within 3 calendar months – which actually took place concurrently with the merger of Nukona and Symantec - instead of the usual 12-18 month cycle for typical FIPS validations.

FIPS 140-2 Provides Competitive Advantages

As John Bordwine, Symantec’s Public Sector CTO commented:

“Achieving FIPS compliance eliminated all the competitive FUD overnight. Most importantly, since achieving FIPS compliance, we have progressed in a number of significant deals with governments, both in the US and internationally, as well as some major enterprise customers. That would have never happened without aggressive FIPS compliance.”

RapidCert FIPS 140 Validation

The RapidCert program, available only from SafeLogic in tandem with CryptoComply, allows product vendors like Symantec to receive a formal FIPS 140-2 validation certificate in their own name quickly and with no interaction with a testing laboratory, which accelerates the timeline and lowers costs compared to the traditional process.

Bordwine concluded, *“The RapidCert program will provide the FIPS certification in Symantec’s own name, which is highly beneficial for a number of major Federal government opportunities and will mean that Symantec App Center is one of the only fully FIPS-validated solutions of its type in the market. New releases of Symantec App Center are currently planned that will add some significant new features to further enhance our leadership in BYOD and mobile security. Thanks to CryptoComply, they will not need to be re-certified each time.*

SafeLogic has provided a tremendous competitive advantage to us by helping us achieve FIPS compliance in a fraction of the time and effort normally associated with this sort of certification process. I could not recommend them highly enough.”



About Symantec

Symantec is one of the world’s largest software companies with more than 18,500 employees in more than 50 countries.

Symantec provides security, storage and systems management solutions to help their customers manage and secure their information-driven world against more risks at more points, more completely and efficiently than any other vendor.



About SafeLogic

SafeLogic Inc. was established in 2012 to reduce the time and complexity of integrating and validating world class encryption. Spun out from Apex Assurance Group, which has provided FIPS 140 consulting services to top companies for nearly a decade, SafeLogic delivers innovative security, encryption, and FIPS validation to applications for mobile, wearable, server, appliance, and constrained device environments.

SafeLogic is privately held and is headquartered in Palo Alto, CA.



SafeLogic Inc.
530 Lytton Ave, Suite 200
Palo Alto, CA 94301
(844) 4-ENCRYPTION
@SafeLogic
info@SafeLogic.com
www.SafeLogic.com

You needed SafeLogic six months ago.