

# Case Study

## API Technologies and SafeLogic Earned FIPS 140-2 Compliance to Facilitate a JITC Certificate and Placement on the UC APL for the ION SA5600.



### The Background

API Technologies provides cutting edge products in a variety of sectors, including RF and microwave, microelectronics and hybrids, electromagnetic integrated solutions, and security for critical and high-reliability applications. Their reputation has earned market share in defense, aerospace, medical, and other verticals. In particular, API Technologies' ION Networks™, and Netgard® brands have been established firmly among global governments and defense agencies as a trusted provider of secure systems.

For these particular applications, federal agencies require certification from the Joint Interoperability Test Command (JITC) for information assurance and placement on the Unified Capabilities Approved Products List (UC APL) by the United States Department of Defense (DoD).

### The Challenge

In 2009, an updated, government-specific version of the best-selling ION Networks SA5600 Secure Appliance earned JITC certification. Boasting extremely high security on IP access capabilities for troubleshooting and monitoring, the ION SA5600IA2 quickly became the appliance of choice for critical systems when it comes to extending remote access to voice and IT systems.

The problem was, the process to JITC certification was long and grueling, especially since the company wanted to forego FIPS 140-2 certification in favor of an exception waiver. The strategy worked, and the SA5600IA2 enjoyed a successful run on the DoD Approved Products List, but the experience was not one that would be willingly repeated.

Fast-forward to 2013 and Henry Gold, General Manager of the ION Networks brand, has been informed that the innovative updates to the SA5600 would necessitate a new JITC certification.

"When you've got your JITC certificate and you're on the Approved Products List from the DoD, customer objections magically just go away. These were checkboxes that we needed to support our products and demonstrate our commitment to federal sales," said Gold. "We knew that we needed to complete the JITC process, but we also knew that this time we wanted FIPS 140-2 validation as part of the puzzle."

### API Technologies Achieved FIPS 140-2 Compliance for the ION SA5600

API Technologies needed to reach FIPS 140-2 compliance as quickly as possible, so that the ION SA5600 could earn a JITC certificate in parallel. By processing both certificates in tandem, the path to the UC APL was simplified for the appliance.

### CryptoComply for Server Meets All Objectives

CryptoComply for Server is a standards-based cryptographic library that provides instant compliance for FIPS 140 and Suite B.

SafeLogic enabled API Technologies to achieve FIPS 140-2 compliance in a fraction of the traditional 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

API Technologies took full advantage of CryptoComply for Server by adding the RapidCert option, to receive a FIPS 140-2 validation certificate in their own name quickly and with no interaction with the testing laboratory, saving time and money from the traditional process.

## The Solution

Gold and his team at API Technologies first auditioned consulting companies that specialize in FIPS 140-2, but they reached the conclusion that the traditional path to certification would be too expensive and too slow. Given a projected timeline of six months to reach the 'In Process' list published by NIST, Gold hoped that there was an alternative. He explained that JITC begins processing certificates once the product appears on the NIST 'In Process' list, so the overall delayed timetable offered by the consultants was overshadowed further by the initial inertia.

By leveraging SafeLogic's CryptoComply for Server and adding the RapidCert option, API Technologies accomplished all goals. With the easy integration process and support available from the SafeLogic team, the ION SA5600IA2 and the PRIISMS controller module were added to the NIST 'In Process' list almost immediately. JITC subsequently accepted the submission and the certificates advanced in parallel, beating previous estimates by months.

"There was virtually no learning curve – our developer team was able to dedicate very limited work time, get CryptoComply integrated, get both the JITC and FIPS 140-2 certificates into their queues, and get back to improving our product within weeks," said Gold. "This slashed our soft costs, making the process just a minor interruption to our developers' core activities. Even better, the hard costs were about half of what we were quoted by the consultant!"

With a FIPS 140-2 certificate to match the JITC certificate, the new ION SA5600IA2 should continue to lead the way in federal sales, and SafeLogic made it quick and painless. At the end of the day, API Technologies expects to realize significant cost and time savings, ensuring that their market-leading ION Networks appliance retained its place atop the DISA's Approved Product List.

**"There was virtually no learning curve [and] very limited work time."**



**Henry Gold**

**General Manager - SSIA, API Technologies**



## About API Technologies

API Technologies designs, develops and manufactures systems, subsystems, RF and secure communications solutions for technically demanding defense, aerospace and commercial applications.

ION Networks is the most trusted name in remote device management and secure access technology. ION appliances and software enable service providers, equipment manufacturers, government and military agencies, and corporations to remotely manage, monitor, and secure critical voice and data networks.



**SafeLogic**

## 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.



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