

# ECOS SecureBootStick® at Hessian Ministry of Justice

Highly secure remote access with two-factor authentication

- **Operator:** Hessian Ministry of Justice
- **Sector:** Federal state authority
- **Objective:** Home office with private PC for officers of the court
- **Solution:** Strong two-factor authentication with the ECOS SecureBootStick



## ECOS **SecureBootStick**: Maximum flexibility and satisfaction Highest level of security

Teleworking is actively promoted at the Hessian Ministry of Justice. ECOS' remote access solutions provide employees with highly secure remote access.

### Holger Hofmann

Head of Department and Senior Counsellor | Information Technology of the Hessian Ministry of Justice

»The ECOS SecureBootStick allows our employees a maximum of flexibility and productivity when working from home or on the road. At the same time sensitive data is safely protected.«

Judicial officers, judges, prosecutors from Kassel to Darmstadt: More than 10,000 employees work in the judicial system of Hesse. Responsible for them is the Ministry of Justice, Integration and Europe, based in Wiesbaden and one of the eight departments of the state Hesse.

### Rising demand for home office

For the Hessian Ministry of Justice, as with many other authorities, home-office has come to immediate attention. Many employees want to work from home, at least part of the time. The Ministry strongly supports this development with appropriate pilot and model projects in Hesse—not only conceptually, but also politically. In addition to increased employee satisfaction and greater flexibility, other benefits are to be expected on the basis of recent studies and empirical experience. The state's 2,000 or so judges and prosecutors have a special role to play: Their presence is not mandatory, and they are free to allocate their time as they wish, e.g. for the preparation and review of ongoing trials.

The most important requirement for them and other employees is the remote access to the IT-systems of the ministry, which are provided by the Hessian Data Processing Center (HZD) at the computer center in Hünfeld near Fulda. It goes without saying that, given the sensitive nature

of the personal data of the citizens involved, the highest security standards and data protection requirements must be met, especially when it comes to legal proceedings.

### »Loan Your Own Device«

Until recently, specially configured laptops with a VPN solution installed on the local hard drive were the solution to this challenge. Not only the high cost of about 1500-1700 Euro per device and the effort needed to set up and manage the system argued against this approach in the long run. Employees' desire to use their own hardware while on the road or at home added to the problem.

Holger Hofmann, Senior Counsellor and Head of Unit at the Department of Information Technology of the Hessian Ministry of Justice says:

»It became clear that teleworking would become increasingly important, especially in light of the future widespread use of electronic files. In terms of effort, flexibility, and cost, there were strong arguments against the Ministry continuing to issue dedicated hardware. We therefore approached the HZD with the request to find a suitable way to enable employees a secure remote access to our systems from their own private computers. With a slight twist on the well-known *Bring Your Own Device* concept, we



Dr. Henning Müller, judge at the Hessian justice

## The ECOS SecureBootStick ensures complete separation between personal and business computer use



came up with the motto *Loan Your Own Device*, which means that the employee's private computer is converted to an official computer for work purposes, and the computer is loaned to us. We think this is a good way to meet the different needs of our employees. With today's gas prices, the ability to telecommute or telecommute from home is tantamount to a pay raise for the majority of employees. Of course, this offer is a give and take—the widespread expansion of alternating telework must be supported by employees. 'Loan fes' do not fit into our concept.«

### Remote access with two-factor-authentication

As the IT service provider for the Hessian state government, the HZD also serves as central procurement office. During their market analysis, the experts came across the ECOS SecureBootStick, which stood out both for its functionality and ease of use. A specially hardened and secured Linux environment is launched from a USB stick, providing high-security server access. The PC or notebook serves only as a hardware platform: operating systems and other software installed on the hard disk or storage media are completely unaffected.

Thanks to this isolation, even operating on a compromised computer infected with malware poses no security risk, as there is complete

separation from the local system. The Secure Boot Stick also offers secure two-factor authentication as part of the login process, requiring both the personal stick and password for access.

### Officially tested and approved

The ECOS SecureBootStick was deemed safe and suitable by the Hessian Data Protection Supervisor and the Security Officer for IT solutions of the Hessian Justice system. Thus, a rollout went unchallenged. The initial pilot project involved around 100 Secure Boot Sticks, which were primarily issued to judges, prosecutors and judicial officer. The latter are the beneficiaries of a pilot project in Hesse on 'flexible working hours and teleworking for judicial officers'. Independent time management, comparable to that of judges and prosecutors, was the declared goal.

### Working from anywhere

For example, employees equipped with the ECOS SecureBootStick can remotely access specialized applications such as Eureka on their office desktop to view trial or litigation data from anywhere, anytime. The Secure Boot Stick ensures complete separation of personal and business use of accessing computers—a legally important aspect for the Ministry of Justice. Another important issue could now be solved: there is no administrator access to the personal computer.

»From the beginning of the test phase, the feedback from employees has been very positive,« says Hofmann. »It was a great advantage

**Holger Hofmann**  
Head of Department and Senior Counsellor | Information Technology of the Hessian Ministry of Justice

»We see the ECOS Secure-BootStick as a good opportunity to meet the different needs of our employees.«



that we already cooperated with the different departments from an early stage on. One of the biggest advantages for us and our colleagues at the HZD was that the self-explanatory nature of the Secure Boot Sticks meant that virtually no support was needed. Even personnel with little or no technical understanding could be trusted with the plug-and-play principle. A small leaflet accompanying the Secure Boot Stick explains the steps needed to get started. Once you understand the concept of a boot menu at startup, you get used to it quickly. In most cases, no additional assistance was needed.«

**Continued expansion of electronic records and E-Justice ACT**

About 2000 Secure Boot Sticks are in use across the state. Additional sticks are already planned. This expansion is due in large part to the nationwide implementation of electronic case files. It creates the conditions for a large number of employees to be able to work productively

from any location, since all the data they need is available in electronic form.

»We are very pleased with the path we have taken,« Hofmann concludes. »The ECOS SecureBootStick is a vital part of our strategy for alternating telework and technical aspects of the access from home. It allows our employees a maximum of flexibility and productivity when working from home or on the road. At the same time, sensitive data is securely protected. We are already planning ahead in the medium-run. Our initial thinking focuses heavily on integrating tablet PCs for decision makers.«

Case Study - Scenario	
<b>Operator</b>	Hessian Ministry of Justice
<b>Sector</b>	Federal state authority
<b>Challenge</b>	Home office with private PC for officers of the court
<b>Solution</b>	The ECOS SecureBootStick® offers a highly secure BYOD access solution for alternating teleworking
<b>About the Hessian Ministry of Justice</b>	The Hessian Ministry of Justice is one of the nine ministries of the state of Hesse and is located in a former ministerial building constructed in 1838 in the state capital of Wiesbaden.

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