

ACP145 Gateway

Enabling Military Communication Interoperability across forces and between Allies and Operational Partners

The face of the modern defence force is changing rapidly. No longer does a civilised nation go to war on its own. All operations, whether they are exercises or the real thing are alliance or coalition tasks. The challenge now facing military commanders is effective, reliable, secure electronic communications across international boundaries with allies and operational partners.

In an international coalition exercise, how does one military high security domain, interface to another from a different country? The issue is not just one of connectivity or even language (communications and translation services are constantly improving). Apart from network connectivity and security, the issue is one of semantics and trust. How do we translate a US DMS Security Label into a British Label? How can we be sure that the message really came from the Australian Task Force commander and has not been amended in transit?

The interoperability solution

Originally developed by CCEB 5-Nations (AUS, CAN, NZ, UK, US) ACP145 is now in the process of adoption by NATO. ACP145 is designed to not only support physical interoperability but also to manage the issues of trust and semantics discussed above. The Boldon James ACP 145 solution is now deployed by the UK MoD as the world's first deployment of this technology. The Boldon James product is the ONLY deployed solution that supports ACP 145 on the outbound segment and Stanag 4406 on the In-bound segment.

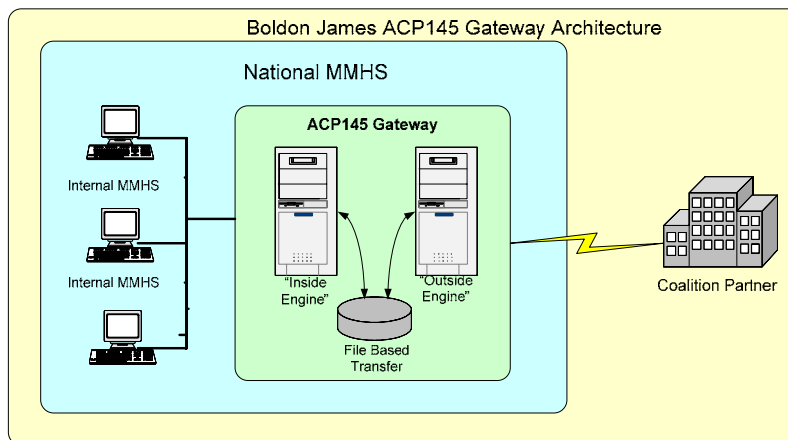


Figure1 - Interoperability Between ACP120 and SMIME/ESS Messaging

Modular Design

High Grade military messaging solutions need to be reliable, secure, and deliver consistent performance and the Microsoft Exchange server, on which the ACP145 Gateway is engineered, is already proven to deliver these requirements. As a modular design, the ACP145 Gateway comprises:

- An 'inside engine' that interfaces with the local military message handling system (MMHS) managing signature, encryption and security label mapping
- An 'outside engine' that translates to and from ACP145 and handles communication to remote systems.

This architecture allows for common outside engines and deployment in different countries through the delivery of local variants of the inside engine. Most nations have more than one MMHS to cater for their Army, Navy and Air Force. The modular design of our ACP145 Gateway enables these MMHS' to link together as a single unified system or link different email messaging systems together i.e. linking a military intelligence system to a Homeland Security system.

Key Benefits

- Achieves the secure exchange of information between MMHS from different nations or different military organisations within the same nation

- A multi-vendor gateway capable of interoperating with other third party ACP145 gateways and legacy messaging systems
- Built using COTS Microsoft Exchange Server 2003 for reliability, improved performance and a low total cost of ownership.

Key Features

- Converts various national military protocols and standards to the common ACP145 standard including the US ACP120 and NATO STANAG4406
- Out of the box Compliance with NATO STANAG 4406 and PCT standards
- Extendable to support US DMS MSP4 and other message handling standards
- Supports S/MIME Signatures (encryption option available) between gateways enabling compliance with security policies / boundary controls
- Supports the exchange of multiple attachments
- Supports bi-lateral agreement mapping to correctly interpret between national and international domains including security classification labels, precedence levels and operation type
- Supports the conversion of a multiple recipient message where individual recipients may be on different ACP145 gateways
- Provides for protective message label mapping and creates non-delivery reports for invalid messages
- Modular design for ease of operation and support with ability to run on multi-processor fault tolerant configurations as required.

Related Products

SAFEmail – Delivering a formal message handling capability for the Office Outlook client.

SAFEchat – Labelling, archiving, persistence and access control for Office Communications Server (OCS).

SAFEoffice: Delivering security classification labels to Microsoft Office documents and Pdf files.

Tactical Messenger Gateway - supports message exchanges in low bandwidth environments

Boldon James, a wholly-owned QinetiQ subsidiary, has over 20 years' experience specialising in secure messaging solutions tailored to meet the formal information exchange requirements of the worldwide defence and secure government sectors. Its Secure Information Exchange (SIE) architecture provides a suite of Microsoft commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) functional extensions across the Unified Communications collaboration and conferencing suites, resulting in solutions with a low total cost of ownership (TCO) and significantly reduced deployment risk. Boldon James is a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner and exclusive "Global Go-To-Market Partner for Secure Messaging"

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