Rocket software

Enhancing Host Access Management

Streamlining security practices for a resilient future with Rocket® Secure Host Access

CHALLENGE

Overcoming compliance and security challenges

As a major health insurer, the company handles vast amounts of personally identifiable information (PII) daily, requiring strict compliance with regulations like the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). However, as HIPAA requirements

CHALLENGE

The company's fragmented environment created security gaps and operational inefficiencies, making it difficult to protect sensitive data.

evolve, including proposed updates such as multi-factor authentication (MFA) potentially becoming mandatory in 2026, the company faced challenges in maintaining compliance. Their reliance on two different terminal emulators, one web-based and one desktop-based, to access a claims application on the mainframe further compounded these challenges.

First, managing two separate applications for mainframe access led to inconsistent administration, duplicated efforts, unnecessary complexity, and vulnerability to potential breaches. Second, the desktop emulator posed security risks by connecting directly to the host, bypassing security capabilities provided by modern identity and access management (IAM) solutions, such as MFA. This is a common issue with heritage desktop emulators, which often lack integration with modern security protocols. Finally, operational inefficiencies arose, as updating security protocols (e.g., SSL to TLS 1.3) required IT teams to manually reconfigure each desktop, a process that could take months.

To address these issues, the company needed a unified solution that could centralize administration, integrate seamlessly with their corporate IAM system, and enhance their overall security posture.

Streamlining mainframe access and security with Rocket® Secure Host Access

To consolidate their two emulators into a single cohesive platform, the insurer chose Rocket® Secure Host Access. This solution will address the company's challenges by centralizing administration, allowing the organization's entire host access estate to be managed from a single console. While IT can oversee this process, the platform is designed to be user-friendly enough for non-IT staff to manage after the initial setup. This ensures that those currently managing mainframe access can continue to do so — only now with greater ease and efficiency. The administrator can make surgical changes to session documents in hours where it previously took months, due to changes being required on each device. For example, the administrator could change the port number, IP address, or even the level of TLS encryption. These changes go into effect the next time a user launches a session.

The solution also strengthens authentication by integrating with the company's corporate IAM provider, routing all users through the enterprise's existing authentication process, which can include MFA. Additionally, it enables granular control by using the corporate user directory to enforce role-based access controls (RBAC) and can mask sensitive data fields based on a user's role.

While web clients are often seen as more modern, many organizations continue to rely on desktop clients due to business logic built over decades on automation platforms like High-Level Language Application Programming Interface (HLLAPI/EHLLAPI) and Visual Basic for Applications (VBA). Rocket Secure Host Access accommodates this reality by supporting both desktop and web clients, providing a seamless transition without disrupting existing workflows.

With support from Rocket Software's technical teams, the company moved from a successful proof of concept to preparing for full deployment, backed by round-the-clock support.

Achieving enhanced security, compliance, and efficiency

The insurer is in the process of implementing Rocket® Secure Host Access, which is expected to deliver significant improvements in security while requiring fewer IT resources.

Key outcomes include enhanced regulatory compliance by implementing MFA and centralizing access controls, enabling the company to strengthen protections for sensitive patient data, and passing security audits. The integration with the corporate IAM improves security posture by closing critical gaps and protecting sensitive data from unauthorized access and AI-driven threats.

Additionally, the unified platform will boost IT efficiency by reducing the time spent on routine administration, allowing the IT team to focus on strategic initiatives. Lastly, the company anticipates reduced operational costs through a simplified infrastructure and fewer IT maintenance hours, resulting in a lower total cost of ownership.

Stronger security

Extends modern MFA to all host access points, protecting sensitive data everywhere — even on mainframe green screens.

Greater efficiency

Reduces IT administrative workload by consolidating management into a single console, allowing configuration updates to be deployed in hours instead of months.

Assured compliance

Helps support compliance with strict regulatory mandates like HIPAA by enforcing centralized, role-based access controls and enhancing authentication protocols.

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

Rocket® Secure Host Access

Industry

Health insurance.

Location

U.S.

Challenge

The company's fragmented environment created security gaps and operational inefficiencies, making it difficult to protect sensitive data.

Rocket software

Modernization. **Without Disruption.**™

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