

US Department of Agriculture stays at the forefront of mobilization with **Acronis** Files Advanced

Government agency's mobility integrator selects Acronis to protect data and reduce costs for up to 100,000 iOS and Android users.

BUSINESS BACKGROUND

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) works to support the American agricultural economy to strengthen rural communities; to protect and conserve America's natural resources; and to provide a safe, sufficient, and nutritious food supply for the American people.

The USDA is composed of 17 separate agencies with an additional 17 offices that support research and development, marketing, safety, economic assistance, conservation, forest management, and many other services across the US and foreign markets.

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

With the new era of mobile computing, smartphones and tablets, wireless communications and cloud services, the USDA sought to take advantage of a mobilized workforce and the blurring lines between personal and corporate computing resources. However, to utilize these technical trends, the agency needed to construct and execute a mobile strategy, combining device management, application delivery, and bring-your-own-device (BYOD) concepts while improving IT insight, retaining control, and cutting costs.

This initiative needed to deliver a seamless user experience to significantly increase the speed, flexibility, and agility with which the government workforce could respond and deliver value to the public while also maintaining full security to meet agency requirements. Specifically, they needed to increase project collaboration and give field workers access to documents and forms while they aren't on the network to efficiently receive input with customers.

INDUSTRY

Government

KEY REQUIREMENTS

- Enable remote iOS and Android users to securely access PDF and Office® files and Windows® and Linux® file folders in USDA enterprise networks
- Fulfill federal security policies including FIPS 140-2 encryption for sensitive data at rest and in-transit
- Allow users to locally store and edit Office documents and annotate PDF files
- Provide access to on-premises as well as Office 365™ SharePoint® document libraries
- Tightly integrate with MobileIron® MDM

PROTECTED RESOURCES

- Up to 100,000 USDA iOS and Android devices across the USA

KEY BENEFITS

- Single sign-on to securely access all USDA on and off-premises content while leveraging existing Active Directory® stores
- Single solution for both iOS and Android devices which minimizes training and compatibility issues to simplify administrative activities
- Tight integration with MobileIron, reducing deployment and management costs while maximizing policy flexibility

THE ACRONIS SOLUTION

ITS (International Technology Services) the organization responsible for managing mobile devices within the USDA needed to identify a mobile device management (MDM) and mobile application management solution. ITS realized that a complete, integrated solution with all the features and functions requested would require products from multiple vendors. Moreover, they had to select integration and architecture services that allowed the vendor products to work seamlessly with each other in the USDA environment.

For their MDM, the USDA selected DMI, Inc., a leading mobility integrator. As a content file management and sharing solution, DMI evaluated numerous products but summarily dismissed them because they didn't support the claims-based authentication for Office 365 SharePoint, full Office editing, and FIPS 140-2 validated cryptography. After careful evaluation, DMI chose Acronis Files Advanced.

KEY BENEFITS

Security is Essential

Acronis Files Advanced supports multiple levels of encryption for data at rest and in-transit. It uses FIPS 140-2 validated crypto libraries to enhance its own application-level security. It leverages the USDA's enterprise Active Directory and has a powerful policy engine that enables agency administrators to enforce client policies as well as data policies. USDA customers can be confident that while user productivity in collaboration is increased, data security is not compromised.

Full Office Editing with Powerful Digital Rights Management

The ability to access Office documents without leaving the security of the Acronis Files interface gives the USDA confidence that their sensitive data is protected.

Acronis Files allows administrators to not only access and edit their Office documents, but also control which applications gain access to the retrieved or stored data and what users are allowed to do with the data (copy and paste, print, email, etc.).

Access to On-Premises and Off-Premises SharePoint

A critical element of the solution was that Acronis Files allowed users to access both SharePoint sites that were located in the USDA internal network and external SharePoint document libraries like Office 365 SharePoint. As a result, users can perform a single sign-on, authenticate using existing credentials to the corporate Active Directory, and using Claims-Based authentication they can access all of their off-premises SharePoint document libraries from a single application easily.

"Acronis Files Advanced is a great fit for the USDA's needs. With it, they can create and edit Office documents, provide bi-directional sync with SharePoint, share information on mobile devices, and sync documents while on the network to continue working without one. This all comes from a single app that we manage."

**Kathleen Urbine,
DMI Senior Vice President,
Enterprise Solutions Group**

ABOUT ACRONIS

Acronis leads the world in [cyber protection](#); solving safety, accessibility, privacy, authenticity, and security (SAPAS) challenges with innovative [backup, security, disaster recovery](#), and [enterprise file sync and share solutions](#), running on [hybrid cloud storage](#): on-premises, or in the cloud or at the edge. Enhanced by [AI technologies](#) and [blockchain-based authentication](#), Acronis protects all data, in any environment, including physical, virtual, cloud, mobile workloads and applications. Today, 500,000 business customers, and a powerful worldwide community of Acronis API-enabled service providers, resellers, and ISV partners use these technologies. Acronis is trusted by [79 of the top 100 most valuable brands](#) and has over 5 million customers, with dual headquarters in Switzerland and Singapore, Acronis is a global organization with 14 offices worldwide and customers and partners in over 190 countries. Learn more at acronis.com.