

Case Study:

**Aintree University Hospitals NHS
Secure Portable Data with SafeStick**



Network Defence Implements New USB Security Solution to Safeguard NHS Data

21 January, 2009 - Aintree University Hospitals NHS Trust has deployed USB memory sticks featuring full hardware encryption from BlockMaster, aptly named SafeStick®.

Recent high-profile data security breaches have led to calls for greater data security with transportable media devices such as memory sticks. By implementing SafeStick, Aintree University Hospitals NHS Trust is leading the way in securing portable data.

Implemented by leading IT security specialist Network Defence, SafeStick® ensures all data stored is automatically encrypted to military grade AES 256 bit Government encryption standards via an on-board, non-by passable hardware encryption controller.

In the event of loss or theft of the stick, all data stored on a SafeStick® is totally secure. Data can only be decrypted and accessed by users who have the correct password, ensuring that confidential data and sensitive information is kept that way.

Via SafeConsole® - the central policy management console for SafeStick, Aintree's IT Departments can permanently disable and wipe lost SafeSticks, issue password reset codes, and enforce password complexity policies as policy dictates.

Ward Preistman, director of informatics at Aintree University Hospitals NHS Trust said:

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“Patients expect us to take all reasonable steps to safeguard their data, and that’s exactly what we are doing. We wanted to set the standard for others to follow and find a solution which would help keep our sensitive data secure.

We also wanted a solution that would help reduce the number of service desk calls we get regarding issues with data storage.”

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A key benefit of SafeStick® is its simplicity. Its ease of use means there is no change to users' day-to-day process of transferring data. Furthermore the SafeStick® can be used with any PC, at any location with zero software needing to be installed - this was a necessary requirement for the Trust.

As part of the deployment Network Defence rolled out 500 SafeStick USB flash drives across the Trust to admin, clinical and non-clinical staff, who need to transfer data as part of their role.

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“With SafeStick®, Network Defence has provided us with a cost-effective and easy-to-manage solution which gives us the flexibility and above all robust level of security we require.

We have now banned the use of non-encrypted USBs for storing and transferring Trust data.

This has increased levels of security as users now don't need to make a decision about whether to encrypt data or not - it is done automatically.”

Ward Priestman continues:

"Network Defence have been extremely knowledgeable in advising us with the rollout and are providing us with any technical support we need.

Their consultative and helpful approach has ensured we make the most of the benefits the solution has to offer; we would recommend them to anyone else looking to deploy a solution such as this."

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About Network Defence

Based in the North West, Network Defence is a leading IT and Data security consultancy that works with a range of companies in different markets to improve overall IT security and business efficiency saving time and money. www.networkdefence.com



About BlockMaster AB

Since the first release of SafeStick® in early 2004, BlockMaster has the longest successful track-record of delivering secure USB Flash Drives in the world.

BlockMaster is headed out of Lund, Sweden with additional offices in Stockholm.

SafeStick® and SafeConsole® are a registered BlockMaster brands. www.blockmaster.se



About Softek

Softek are a cutting-edge, highly technical Value Add Distributor.

Specialising in supplying and supporting a range of IT Security, Encryption, Storage and Archiving solutions, together with professional services through a network of Channel Reseller partners, VAR's and consultants throughout the UK, Ireland and Dependant territories.

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