

VaultCore Utilities Use Case



How VaultCore Can Help Utility Companies Secure Sensitive Data and Avoid Interruption of Services

» THE CHALLENGES

The utilities industry is in a state of change marked by both legacy systems and a rapid modernization to IoT integrations. These connected devices and networks that couple equipment, controllers, software, and systems combined with a heavy reliance on third-party vendors for services and products have created excess vulnerability for cyberattacks.

The large amounts of data being transferred between IT and OT, as well as between utilities and active third-party vendors remains at high risk. These various points have created a weak, interconnected supply chain vulnerable to breach. Possible infractions threaten sensitive business and customer data as well as interruption of service.

THIRD-PARTY RISK

While each utility company may feel confident in their internal security strategy, network attacks typically originate from smaller, third-party vendor systems where security may not be as robust. Awareness of all vendor vulnerabilities is improbable, yet this lack of knowledge and overt control over vendors' network architectures continues to hamper even the best security practices.

NETWORK ENDPOINT RISK

The move to smart grid technology where limited or no security for endpoints such as programmable logic controllers (PLCs) and intelligent end devices (IEDs) within control systems (such as SCADA) is a popular distribution grid network point of entry for sophisticated cyberattacks. These attacks can threaten distribution of power resulting in blackouts as well as vital services such as transportation and health. Smart grid technology is complex and emerging rapidly — and bad actors are exploiting the often disheveled growth to gain access.

» HIGHLIGHT

In 2016, the Department of Homeland Security reported that almost half of all industrial cyberattacks in the U.S. targeted energy, water, and communication companies. Today, the utilities sector remains one of the most vulnerable. Third-party supply chain risks, limited or no security for endpoints, and the use of high-speed data networks continue to expose sensitive business and customer information.

Fornetix® VaultCore™ provides utility companies an additional level of protection and control over sensitive data and infrastructure. Through centralized encryption key management control of data governance, end-to-end Information Technology (IT) / Operational Technology (OT), secure communication policy deployment, and robust device authentication, the VaultCore solution helps secure data and eliminate interruption of services.

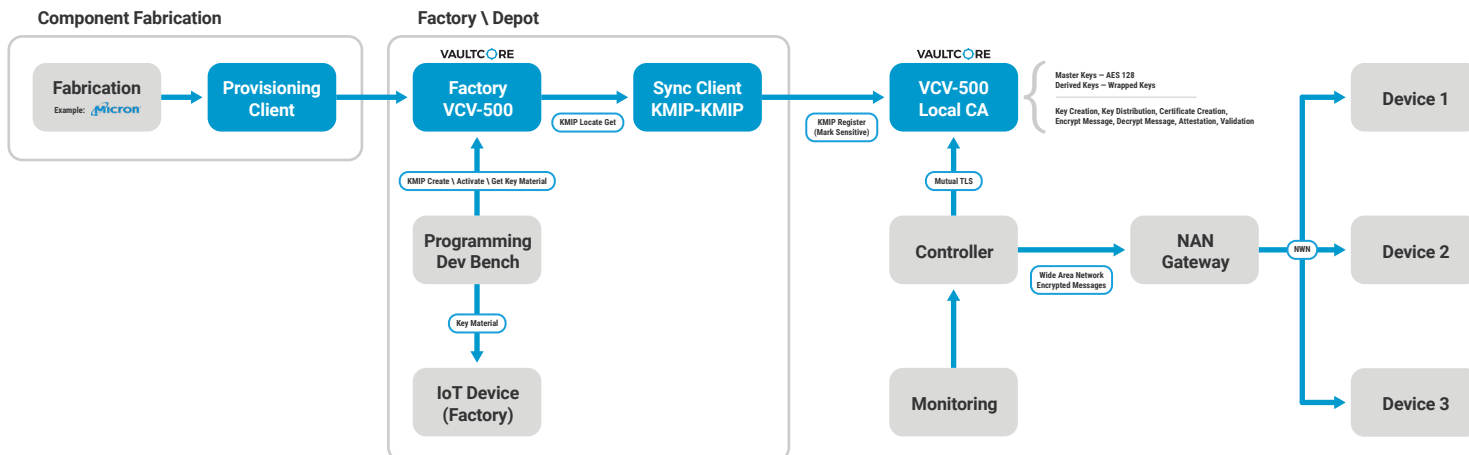


» THE SOLUTION

New regulations in place for third-party vendors are meant to reduce supply chain risk or third-party breaches for utilities. However, responsibility still falls on the utilities to ensure their networks, infrastructure, and data remain secure even when utilizing outside vendors. Encryption is at the core of data security. And encryption key management is essential to making encryption a strong security tool. VaultCore by Fornetix is a groundbreaking cybersecurity solution that unleashes encryption's full potential by deploying and enforcing key management across an entire organization — across all devices — connecting vendors in the supply chain. This unified approach allows storage and control of all encryption keys in all environments, whether it's on-premise storage, virtualized, or cloud-based.

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VAULTCORE

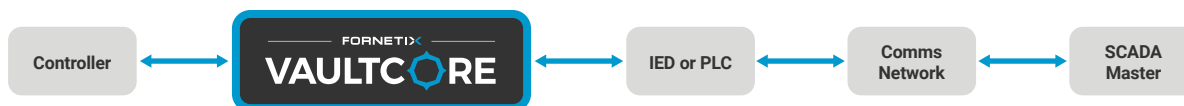




VaultCore provides secure external key management that supports wide scale protection of data at rest, data in motion, and data in the cloud. As sensitive business or customer data rests or transfers between utilities, vendors, or customers, it remains encrypted and only appears legible when the user possesses the appropriate encryption keys. VaultCore can work with legacy devices or integrate seamlessly with newer KMIP-enabled devices to increase network visibility, provide centralized policy control, and access to reporting. With industry-leading capacity, VaultCore is capable of managing over 100 million keys, more than adequate to serve the growing needs of the utilities industry. Additionally, VaultCore can verify the cryptographic integrity of data to ensure critical code has not been tampered with between the utility and third-party vendors – a significant benefit in thwarting attack.

Delivered as a physical or virtual appliance, VaultCore sits with the controller to deliver and enforce policy and provide key management device identity that works to enable secure communications between controllers, head end units, and devices.

Given concerns of firmware integrity, Fornetix also works with embedded partner technologies, such as Micron's Authenta technology, to deliver firmware integrity services from VaultCore to logic controllers like head end units, and end devices such as smart meters. In short, by collaborating with partners, VaultCore can help deliver end-to-end protection to secure additional weak points.



VaultCore works in conjunction with the controller to impact security.


» SUMMARY


Securing data and infrastructure has become exponentially complex as utility companies continue to utilize third-party vendors and migrate all or part of their business to smart grid and smart metering data. As a result, security and risk management leaders struggle to support secure storage, access, and use of encrypted data while also meeting necessary speed, privacy, crypto-agility, compliance, and business needs. Fornetix's VaultCore provides a simple, cost-efficient solution that works with an organization's existing investments – and is scalable to meet the growing demands of the utilities industry through an enterprise level key manager capable of protecting sensitive data between third-party vendors and the multitude of industry endpoints.

» ABOUT FORNETIX

Fornetix, a pioneer in encryption key management, understands that securing data in today's complex environment can seem like an impossible task. VaultCore by Fornetix is a patented solution designed to simplify the encryption key management process across the entire enterprise. VaultCore provides a centralized system to automate the full key lifecycle and enable compliance policy enforcement. Scalable to over 100 million keys for data storage environments including multi-cloud and hyperconverged infrastructures, VaultCore allows you to leverage existing technology investments and take complete ownership of your keys ensuring that critical data is safeguarded no matter where it resides.

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FREE DEMO: www.fornetix.com/demo

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