

Gaz Electricité de Grenoble adopts GlobalSign's solution for Adobe to allow compliant signature of electronic invoices.

SOLUTION SUMMARY

Digital signatures for Adobe ensure that PDF documents can be proven to be authentic, from a verified source and that the content has not been tampered with since being published. In partnership with Adobe, GlobalSign offers digital certificates which allow individuals and departmental identities to sign and certify PDF documents, with its solution branded as PDF Signing for Adobe CDS.

ABOUT CERTIFIED DOCUMENT SERVICES

Certified Document Services (CDS) is a service which is enabled by the Adobe Root Certificate Authority and was introduced into the Adobe® Acrobat® product range from version 6.0 onwards. CDS allows document authors to digitally sign Portable Document Format (PDF) files, using an X.509 digital certificate chained to the Adobe Root Authority. GlobalSign is an authorised participant in Adobe's Certified Document Services (CDS) program and is thus allowed to issue Adobe recognised CDS Certificates.

MORE INFORMATION

www.globalsign.com

Gaz Electricité de Grenoble GEG (www.geg.fr) had the requirement to create and deliver invoices in an electronic format, to allow faster processing of their 5,000 invoices every year.

GEG needed to ensure that the new workflow would meet compliance with the new EU legislation regarding electronic invoicing, as well as provide high security levels, which prompted them to look into deploying a digital signature solution.

The solution needed to be easy to implement into existing processes so that it could be adopted across the whole organization, without requiring additional training, or incurring installation and support costs.

GEG also wanted to ensure that the process would be as transparent as possible for their customers and not require any action on their behalf.

The Solution

Adobe CDS enables Gaz Electricité de Grenoble to convert paper-based invoices into more secure online versions by adding a certifying digital signature, using a signing tool, a secure USB token and a signing credential from GlobalSign.

The digital certificate was issued to GEG's Invoicing Department, after vetting of the organization's identity by the GlobalSign Certificate Authority, allowing anyone within this department to apply digital signatures to Adobe PDF documents and ensuring that recipients can verify the authenticity of the origin of the document.

The process is the virtual equivalent to sealing a document and adding a wet-ink signature. GEG's customers can view the signed invoices and verify the signatures by simply using the free Adobe Reader 6.0+ software.

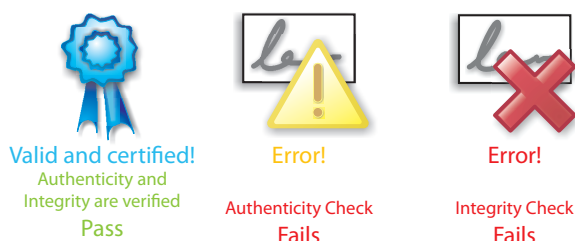


Customers can verify the validity of the digital signature as the blue ribbon and identity of the signer are clearly displayed in the blue bar

Creating Trusted Documents

As GlobalSign is a participant in the Adobe CDS program, its digital certificates are chained to the Adobe Root Authority and hence are instantly validated when the recipient opens the document using a free Adobe Reader.

Most competitive solutions use untrusted certificates which display warning messages on the customers' machine. It was critical for GEG to ensure a simplified customer experience which guided the company's decision to adopt the PDF Signing solution.



QUOTE

“ As traditional workflows are moved online, meeting compliance can become a minefield. We are delighted to see an increase in both large and small organisations alike adopting PDF Signing to improve efficiency. PDF Signing is a natural fit for those companies looking to reduce costs and alleviate trivial tasks from their professional staff, whilst ensuring compliance to the EU directive. ”

Paul Turret, Managing Director
GMO GlobalSign Ltd

PDF SIGNING FEATURES & BENEFITS

- Allows the addition of certification and approval signatures
- No plug-ins or extra software needed
- Desktop-based or Server-based to suit specific volume requirements
- RFC 3161 compliant timestamping service
- True Multi-lingual support

Ensuring EU Legislation Compliance

When adopting digital signatures, Gaz Electricité de Grenoble's main requirement was to ensure that the solution would allow compliance to the EU legislation. The EU VAT Directive (2006/112/EC) implemented into national law in 2004 establishes a set of rules for the creation and subsequent storage of electronic invoices from both the perspective of the invoice issuer and invoice receiver.

Adobe CDS to guarantee authenticity & integrity

The directive states that the authenticity of the origin and the integrity of the information must be guaranteed throughout the storage period of the documents.

Gaz Electricité de Grenoble wished to adopt a single solution to streamline the invoice creation and delivery process, and GlobalSign's PDF Signing solution complies to both of these aspects: As the digital certificate is bound to the vetted identity of the author, digitally signing the document provides assurances of authenticity and origin. The integrity is also assured as a signed document can not be tampered with – any amendments would invalidate the signature which would be clearly shown to the recipient via a red cross symbol.

Time stamping for long term archiving

One of the main challenges faced by organizations is to ensure the chosen solution remains valid throughout the 5-year storage requirement. GlobalSign's digital signatures comes with a fully RFC 3161 compliant timestamping feature which ensures that the digital signature remains fully valid even once the digital certificate has expired. Hence if an invoice query is raised during the archiving period, the time and date of the signature will always be proven via the SEIKO timestamp.

A customizable solution

GlobalSign provides PDF Signing solutions to suit organizations' specific needs. In GEG's workflow, the signatures are applied via a digital certificate stored on a USB device, a SafeNet two-factor authentication token that is FIPS 140-1 level 2 certified.

The solution can however also be implemented at server level via a Hardware Security Module for larger volume requirements, allowing organizations to apply digital signatures to thousands of documents at the click of a button.

The range of digital signature solutions helps customers to meet compliance and control their carbon footprint while ensuring greater security and trust for all stakeholders.

About GlobalSign

Established in 1996 and as a WebTrust accredited public certificate authority, GlobalSign offers publicly trusted SSL Certificates, EV SSL, Managed SSL Services, S/MIME email security and Code Signing for use on all platforms including mobile devices. Its Trusted Root solution uses the widely embedded GlobalSign Root CA certificates to provide immediate PKI trust for Microsoft Certificate Services and internal PKI, eliminating the costs of using untrusted Root Certificates. Its partnership with Adobe to provide Certified Document Services (CDS) enables secure digitally signed PDF documents, certified transcripts and e-invoices. These core Digital Certificate solutions allow its thousands of authenticated customers to conduct secure online transactions, data transfer, distribution of tamper-proof code, and protection of online identities for secure email and access control. The company has a history of innovation within the online security industry and has offices in the US, UK, Belgium, Japan, and China.

For more information about GlobalSign's range of solutions, please contact us.

Email: sales-us@globalsign.com
Tel: 603-570-7060 / 877-775-4562
Web: www.globalsign.com