

# Enabling SharePoint Single Sign-On for the Remote Workforce

As an IT manager, you know the importance of ensuring rapid and secure access to corporate information—the lifeblood of the modern enterprise. You've invested in Microsoft SharePoint to streamline the communications activities within your enterprise and with the outside world. SharePoint enables document sharing and collaboration, allowing dispersed workers to cooperate on projects, regardless of their physical location. Whether they are located in a home office, a hotel or within the corporate firewall, SharePoint empowers unparalleled workforce collaboration. The return on a SharePoint investment is directly linked to its universal availability.

SharePoint's seamless integration with Microsoft Office is one of its strengths. Unfortunately, Office and SharePoint use different authentication mechanisms. SharePoint works well on the extranet with BASIC, NTLM, Kerberos and anonymous authentication. However, forms-based authentication is not provided out-of-the-box. While single sign-on is available to onsite SharePoint users, members of the remotely-connected workforce are required to repeatedly re-authenticate to access corporate information. In addition, enterprise customers with existing single sign-on solutions have no easy way of integrating with SharePoint for forms-based authentication.

To address these issues, IT managers need a web single sign-on solution that extends the existing capabilities of SharePoint. This white paper will discuss the authentication challenges faced by remote SharePoint users and introduce the benefits of web single sign-on solutions.

## The Re-authentication Problem

Being prompted more than once for authentication undermines the remote worker's productivity, diminishes the user experience and creates hassles for IT.

### Poor Employee Productivity

Imagine you were expected to sign in and be verified every time you walked from one room of an office building to another. Worse yet, imagine you were required to present credentials every time you touched any document.

This situation is a reality for mobile knowledge workers who, rather than gaining immediate access with the click of the mouse, find themselves up against an arduous barrier of authentication—typing in the same name and

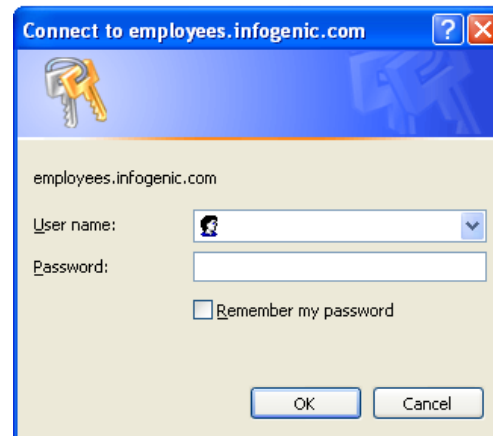
*While SharePoint single sign-on is available to onsite users, the remotely-connected workforce is required to constantly re-authenticate to access corporate information*

passwords over and over. As a result, the vast productivity increases that companies expected to gain with a corporate portal slip away.

### Frustrated Users

*The need to repeatedly re-authenticate deters remote users from accessing SharePoint*

The absence of a web single sign-on capability greatly frustrates users and diminishes the user experience. As a result, remotely-connected users are less likely to actively use SharePoint. Knowledge workers expect a seamless interaction with their business systems. When that seamlessness doesn't exist, they will use the corporate portal less often and experience higher levels of dissatisfaction.



### Challenges for IT

SharePoint also does not offer out-of-the-box integration with existing corporate web security services, forcing IT to support multiple identification systems and databases, creating added management hassles.

The lack of integration also undermines the ability of the organization to present a unified interface to the remotely-connected knowledge worker, partner or customer. For example, user login screens cannot be branded with the corporate look and feel. In addition, if a company wishes to make terms and conditions readily accessible, it cannot be accomplished without forms-based authentication.

### **The Solution: Web Single Sign-On**

*Web single sign-on solutions for SharePoint allow remote users to authenticate a single time via a web-based form*

Web single sign-on solutions provide remotely-connected professionals seamless access to SharePoint information assets. Web single sign-on enables a remotely-connected user to authenticate once via a web-based form and gain access to the resources of multiple software systems. Now remote users, partners and customers can experience the same convenient access to SharePoint that their onsite counterparts take for granted.

Web single sign-on is enabled by an ISAPI SharePoint extension, ensuring a seamless single point of authentication for all remote users. With such a solution, the value of SharePoint can be best extended to remote employees, partners and customers, improving their productivity and reducing the demands on the help desk and IT.

Web single sign-on provides the following benefits:

- **Eliminates remote information access problems:** A single authentication process provides access to remotely-connected users, without the need to re-authenticate.
- **Improves productivity:** Eliminating the burden of presenting credentials beyond the initial login, a web single sign-on solution increases the productivity of remote SharePoint users.
- **Enhances the user experience:** Web single sign-on provides remote professionals with seamless access to corporate documents and other information via a corporate-branded, form-based authentication method.
- **Integrates with existing corporate web security:** Web single sign-on provides a unified approach to security and eliminates the need for multiple identity management databases.
- **Extends the business value of SharePoint:** Increasing usage of SharePoint by remotely-connected professionals, a web single sign-on solution increases SharePoint's return on investment.

### What to Look for in a Web Single Sign-On Solution

*Seek a solution that can be implemented in as little as 10 to 15 minutes*

When exploring web single sign-on solutions to extend the impact and value of SharePoint, consider the following important criteria:

- **Ease of implementation:** Seek a solution that can be implemented quickly—in as little as 15 minutes or less.
- **Easy to administer:** Look for a solution that requires virtually no administration once it is installed.
- **LDAP integration:** If you have invested in a light directory application protocol (LDAP) infrastructure, ensure the solution will easily integrate with your LDAP investment.
- **Uncompromising security:** Seek a solution that provides strong credential encryption that enhances the user experience without security trade-offs.
- **Authenticates across multiple servers:** If you have multiple servers performing specific functions, be sure the solution allows a single point of authentication across all systems.
- **Custom login pages:** Ensure the solution enables the addition of corporate branding to the login page.
- **No extra hardware:** Seek a solution that does not require dedicated hardware, but rather sits as a layer on top of IIS.
- **Microsoft certification:** Be sure to work with a Microsoft Certified Partner that is intimately familiar with SharePoint.

- **Responsiveness:** Look for a vendor that is highly accessible and responsive to the needs of its clients.
- **Scalability:** Seek a solution that easily scales to accommodate added users and servers, while providing a single point of entry and authentication.
- **Pricing structure:** Determine the total cost of ownership of the solution. Seek a solution that has no ongoing costs or subscription requirements.

### The Infogenic Advantage

*Infogenic Systems is a software solutions provider and Microsoft Certified Partner whose mission is to simplify business through the intelligent use of information*

Infogenic Systems' S<sub>2</sub>O web single sign-on solution was designed to address all the challenges outlined in this white paper. S<sub>2</sub>O provides enterprises a simple and elegant solution to their remote authentication challenges. Now an enterprise's remotely connected workforce, partners and customers can experience the many benefits of a single point of authentication while interfacing with SharePoint.

S<sub>2</sub>O enhances the user experience without compromising security, enables corporate-branded login pages, and facilitates the integration with existing corporate web security solutions. This is essential to deliver productivity gains, provide a world-class user experience, minimize hassles for IT, and fully capitalize on the capabilities of SharePoint.

Infogenic Systems is a Microsoft Certified Partner whose mission is to simplify business through the intelligent use of information. The company is focused on helping its clients get the most out of their information assets and IT investments through solutions such as web single sign-on.

Infogenic's S<sub>2</sub>O offers several key web single sign-on benefits that are not available elsewhere:

- **Up and running within 15 minutes:** Infogenic provides a solution that optimizes the installation process. In most cases, the product can be installed and operational within 15 minutes.
- **Set it and forget it:** Once the Infogenic S<sub>2</sub>O solution is installed, there is virtually no need for maintenance.
- **Simple Pricing Model:** The solution is available for a one-time fixed price that starts at \$5,000 per site or IIS instance. This eliminates ongoing subscription fees and hidden costs.

The S<sub>2</sub>O solution's ISAPI SharePoint extension incorporates form-based authentication with SharePoint and integrates with the enterprise's corporate web security and LDAP servers, as well as other third-party authentication applications. S<sub>2</sub>O addresses the authentication issues associated with accessing Microsoft Office and other corporate applications.

S<sub>2</sub>O also works with SSL-based Internet and extranet sites. Using a session cookie and a consumable cookie designed to be used only once, the solution provides added peace of mind by avoiding the potential security concerns of persistent cookies.

**Find out how to enable web single sign-on for your remote SharePoint users by visiting [www.infogetic.com](http://www.infogetic.com) or calling 309-682-0100.**

