Securing Mobile Access for Contract Workers at a leading Natural Resources Company

A leading natural resources company, based in South Africa, faced significant challenges in providing secure mobile access to sensitive company data for their temporary contract workers while maintaining strict security controls. The company needed a solution that would work across various device scenarios, particularly BYOD requirements, without requiring installation of an MDM agent. By implementing SyncDog's Trusted Mobile Workspace, the natural resources company successfully established a secure, flexible system for managing contractor access to critical information.

Challenges

The Natural Resources Company regularly employs hundreds of temporary contractors for various projects across their field operations. These contractors require immediate access to sensitive geological reports, financial data, and internal communications to perform their duties effectively. The company faced several critical challenges:

- Contractors often used personal devices (BYOD) or devices managed by their primary employers
- Traditional MDM solutions were not viable due to:
  - Existing MDM installations from contractors' primary employers prevent a secondary MDM installation from the Natural Resources company
  - Resistance to MDM installation on contractors personal devices
  - Need for factory resets of devices to enable full MDM functionality
  - Little to no data encryption or other protection offered by MDM solutions without the installation of additional tools
- Requirement for immediate revocation of corporate data and access upon contract completion – without a full wipe of the device
- Need for strict compliance with South African data protection regulations

The Solution

After evaluating multiple options, The Natural Resources company selected SyncDog's Trusted Mobile Workspace solution for its comprehensive security features and flexibility in deployment. The solution provided:

Secure Data Management

- FIPS 140-2 certified encryption for all sensitive data
- Secure transport and storage of geological, financial, and other work-related emails and files
- Zero-trust data protection regardless of device ownership or platform

Access Control and Monitoring

- Detailed chain of custody logging to prevent data exfiltration
- Role-based access controls (RBAC) for precise permission management
- GPS and Location-Based Services to ensure appropriate data access
- Comprehensive policy enforcement and auditing of who accesses what data, when, and where

Flexible Implementation

- No MDM requirement for deployment
- Support for both BYOD and company-owned devices
- Compatible with Android and iOS platforms
- Separate work and personal spaces on the same device

Implementation Success

The deployment of SyncDog's solution delivered immediate results:

Enhanced Security

The natural resources company's IT security team gained complete visibility into contractor data access patterns while maintaining strict security standards. The solution's FIPS 140-2 certified encryption ensured that all sensitive geological and financial data remained protected, regardless of the device used to access it.

Improved Contractor Management

The HR department could now provide immediate secure access to new contractors and revoke it instantly upon contract completion. The flexible nature of the solution eliminated previous delays related to device purchase, set-up, management and security configuration.

Location-Based Safety and Security

The GPS and Location-Based Services not only helped ensure data was accessed only from approved locations but also enhanced contractor safety by enabling real-time location monitoring in potentially hazardous environments.

Personal Privacy Protection

Contractors appreciated that their personal data remained private and separate from work-related monitoring with no fear that their personal data and apps would be wiped from the device upon contract completion. The solution created a clear boundary between work and personal use on the same device, increasing adoption rates among the contractor workforce.

About SyncDog

SyncDog is a leading provider of endpoint security solutions, specializing in securing corporate data on mobile devices without compromising user privacy. Its innovative approach ensures data encryption and isolation, making it ideal for organizations with stringent security and compliance requirements. Learn more at www.syncdog.com.

Key Benefits Realized

1. **Rapid Deployment:** New contractors could be onboarded within minutes, regardless of their device situation
2. **Enhanced Security:** Zero-trust architecture ensured data protection across all scenarios
3. **Improved Compliance:** Comprehensive logging and access controls supported regulatory requirements
4. **Cost Efficiency:** Eliminated need for the purchase of separate work devices and monthly data plans, or the implementation of complex MDM deployments
5. **Worker Safety:** Location-based services enhanced both security and safety protocols

Conclusion

SyncDog's Trusted Mobile Workspace provided a leading Natural Resources Company with the perfect balance of security and flexibility. The company successfully addressed its contractor access challenges, while maintaining strict security standards and respecting personal privacy. The solution's ability to secure sensitive data without requiring MDM installation made it particularly valuable in a complex contractor environment with a predominately BYOD based architecture.

The successful implementation demonstrated how organizations can effectively manage temporary worker access to sensitive data while maintaining security and compliance, regardless of device ownership or management status of the device. This natural resources company now serves as a model for other organizations facing similar challenges with contractor data access management.