

Boldon James ACP145 Gateway

Boldon James ACP145 Gateway - Richness, Reach and Interoperability

"The Boldon James gateway provides the functionality for implementation of the CCEB ACP145 standard for interoperability between different Military Message Handling Systems across both National boundaries and the Organisations and Services within the same Nation. The ACP145 Gateway is a modular architecture which supports the diversity of MMHS standards to include ACP123, ACP120, STANAG 4406 Edition 1, SMIME/ESS and extends to include the prescribed security features of confidentiality, integrity and authenticity."

Key Features

- Converts various national military protocols to the common ACP145 standard including ACP120US and STANAG 4406 ED1
- Supports positive and negative Delivery Reports and Read Notifications
- Creates Non-Delivery Reports for invalid messages
- Boundary Controls prevent or sign P22 and P772 messages when traversing the gateway
- Supports the exchange of multiple attachments
- Supports bi-lateral agreement mapping where message attributes are correctly interpreted between national and international domains including; classification levels, precedence levels, and operation type
- Supports the conversion of a multiple recipient message where individual recipients maybe on different ACP145 gateways
- Ease of administration is achieved through tight integration with the COTS Microsoft Exchange server
- Has been tested with third party vendor ACP145 and legacy gateways and demonstrated at the Joint Warrior Interoperability Demonstration 2003.

Market Challenge

The need to exchange information between different Military Message Handling Systems is growing. However, by their very nature military messaging systems are complex requiring support for rigid and rigorous protocols including ACP120US and Stanag 4406 ED1. The relatively new requirement to support the exchange of messages between allied organizations has added the requirement to consider wider security related issues.

Boldon James ACP145 gateway not only provides for the correct translation of messages between different MMHS Systems, i.e. addressing ACP123 standards adopted by different military bodies that can introduce interoperability inconsistencies, but also the secure exchange of those messages. For example, an ACP120US DMS message is correctly converted to a NATO STANAG 4406 ED1 (commonly known as PCT) message.

How it works

A signed and encrypted ACP120US message sent to an allied STANAG 4406ED1 user will be decrypted by the ACP145 Gateway, re-signed using an appropriate gateway certificate, and routed to the ACP145 gateway of the receiving domain. The second ACP145 gateway validates the gateway signature, and then re-signs the message using a gateway certificate for delivery to a STANAG 4406 ED1 user.

The Gateway also provides a bilateral agreement-mapping function to ensure the message types, message precedence and security labels are correctly interpreted between different national security policies.

Figure: Boldon James ACP145 Gateway in use and as tested at the Joint Warrior Interoperability Demonstration 2003 converting between ACP120US and STANAG 4406 ED1 content.

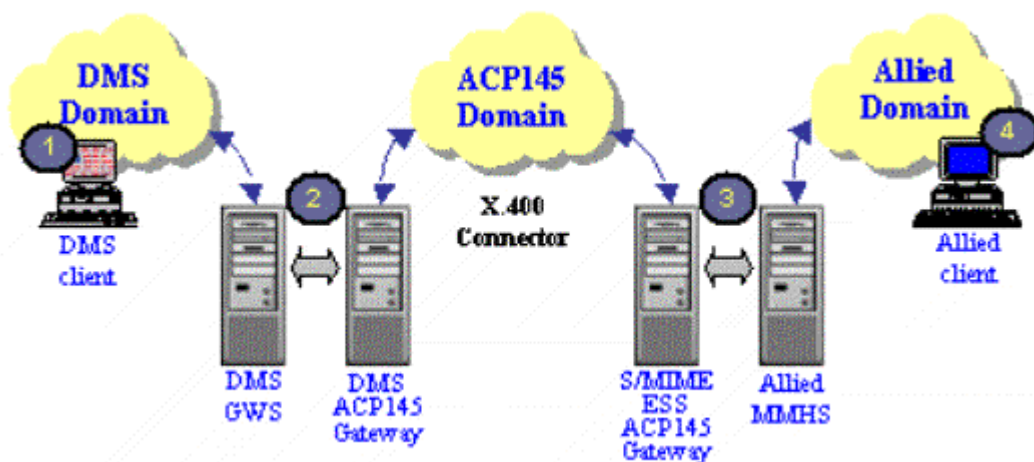


Figure: Gateway in use and as tested at JWID converting between ACP120 and PCT (SMIME/ESS) content

Benefits of the gateway

- Achieves the Secure exchange of information between military messaging systems from different nations or different military organisations within the same nation
- An ACP120US client can exchange secure military messages with a STANAG 4406 ED1 client and Visa Versa
- A multi vendor gateway capable of interoperating with other third party ACP145 gateways and legacy messaging systems
- Leverages the commercial benefits of COTS technology through its support for Microsoft Exchange, Windows Server and Intel hardware.

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