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Beyond the SSFN: The Frankfurter Bankgesellschaft leverages SCION connectivity to drive innovation, efficiency and security

The Frankfurter Bankgesellschaft moved to the SSFN as mandated to continue services with SIX but quickly added new use cases enabled only by their existing SCION infrastructure.

▶ About Frankfurter Bankgesellschaft

Employees: +350
Footprint: 12 locations
Industry: Finance
SCIONabled since August 2024
Products: EDGE, GATE

Overview

As one of the fastest-growing private banks in Germany and Switzerland, Frankfurter Bankgesellschaft is trusted with managing assets valued at 21 billion EUR. Operating across borders with branches and employees in both countries, they are driven by the motto of being one step closer to their customers. To uphold the highest standards in protecting their assets and data, they rely on SCION as a critical technology.

"Building on our existing SCION infrastructure, we have enabled secure remote access to our out-of-band management network for IT administrators—ensuring controlled access to critical datacenter devices for maintenance work and disaster recovery. This air-gapped setup remains isolated from internal networks and the public internet while leveraging SCION's inherent security and resilience. By doing so, we have expanded our administrators' flexibility and reach without compromising security, compliance, or operational integrity."

Steve Erzberger
Head IT at Frankfurter Bankgesellschaft

The challenge

In an increasingly digital and distributed work environment, cyber threats pose a significant challenge for the Frankfurter Bankgesellschaft. Clients expect seamless access to their services anytime, anywhere, and from any device, while remote work has become the norm for employees. To securely enable privileged remote access to critical internal systems, Frankfurter Bankgesellschaft required a connectivity solution that ensures resilience and protection against cyber threats inherent to the traditional internet.

The solution

Frankfurter Bankgesellschaft extended its existing SCION architecture beyond SSFN to securely connect additional high-security services using Anapaya EDGEs and GATEs. By leveraging the Swiss ISD (public isolation domain) for SCION participants in Switzerland, they established a resilient, secure remote access solution to its independent systems management infrastructure—a critical component for business continuity and disaster recovery.

This initiative allowed them to test and validate SCION's capabilities on a small scale while implementing a new security service at minimal additional cost. The deployment of Anapaya's GATE solution further enhanced their ability to explore SCION's potential for future applications.

The implementation

The Frankfurter Bankgesellschaft's SCION-based SSFN participation is built on a multi-provider access setup with redundant, third-party managed Anapaya EDGE routers, which are attached to their perimeter firewall cluster. The EDGE routers support both SSFN and the Swiss ISD on the same hardware.

To ensure segmented security, the Anapaya EDGE devices connect:

- To their perimeter firewalls (SSFN) for SSFN services

- To a separate set of firewalls (Swiss ISD) for secure access to our out-of-band infrastructure

The Swiss ISD firewalls terminate administrator VPN sessions using OTP-based multi-factor authentication (MFA). Crucially, this MFA solution operates independently of both internet connectivity and internal IT resources, ensuring secure remote access even in the event of a network outage or cyber incident.
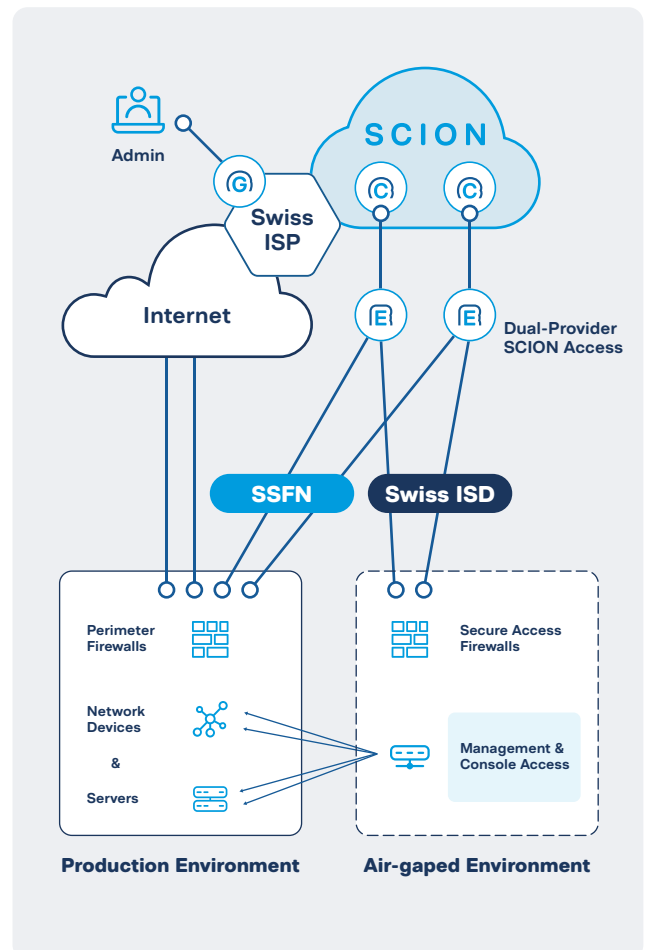
The outcome

Frankfurter Bankgesellschaft's experience with SCION and Anapaya's solutions have been overwhelmingly positive—not only from a technology perspective but also due to the proactive support from both Anapaya and network providers. Encouraged by these results, they have begun implementing two additional SCION-based use cases:

Secure remote access for home-office users

This solution builds on their secure admin access and Anapaya GATE deployment, extending SCION's security benefits to remote employees. Initially, it serves as an alternative access path, enhancing resilience. In the future, they will restrict access to sensitive internal applications exclusively via the SCION-based access path for increased security.

"Clockwire" – Secure time distribution

Frankfurter Bankgesellschaft is participating in a pilot project with ETH Zürich on their Secure and Dependable Clock Synchronization on SCION initiative. This project explores high-precision, tamper-resistant time synchronization over SCION, further expanding its critical infrastructure applications.

Download the Digital tips for improving VPNs

Have questions? Contact us at **team@anapaya.net**

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