MINDLINK

CASE STUDY

MULTINATIONAL INTELLIGENCE COLLABORATION ENVIRONMENT

Company
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Industry
National Security & Defence

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Overview

MindLink was deployed by a government intelligence agency to enable secure mission collaboration between multiple cooperating nations at high classification levels. MindLink's information assurance capabilities and data-centric multitenant security model allowed supervised onboarding of numerous global participants despite the lack of a common overarching coalition agreement.

Problem

A government intelligence agency was tasked with facilitating localized intelligence sharing in support of mission operations in a highly contested world region. Timely and effective collaboration between multiple allied and geographically neighboring nations is key to decision advantage and positive mission outcomes.

However, the 25+ countries involved in these activities represent a fragmented cooperating landscape. There is no common overarching coalition or information-sharing agreement, and indeed many of participating nations even consider themselves to be non-allied with each other.

Enabling sharing of the right intelligence between the right groups at the speed of mission is therefore a significant technology and policy challenge for the customer agency. The differing levels of trust, data sensitivity and complex dissemination policies means that user activities and information flow must be carefully managed.

For classified intelligence sharing, the need to deliver necessary information assurance further

typically inhibits the ability for timely collaboration. The customer agency sought a technology platform solution to support both the “need-to-know” and “need-to-share” whilst satisfying the data sovereignty concerns of each coalition partner nation.

Solution

The customer agency deployed MindLink into their on-premises infrastructure as a secure centralized service for classified intelligence sharing. The system was configured to allow users from partner nations to access the MindLink web interface over secure network links to support close real-time coalition working.

MindLink’s multitenant architecture and deep “ethical walling” mechanisms control information flow between (and visibility of) different nations operating side-by-side on the same infrastructure system. Intelligence sharing is performed by cooperating groups within conceptual “communities of interest” – security constructs managed, labelled, and controlled as native capabilities embedded within the MindLink Chat Engine server.

MindLink’s sophisticated data-centric security model allows expressive configuration and enforcement of intelligence sharing between partner nations in real-time. All sensitive data is granularly labelled to Intelligence Community standards, with access decisions made based on advanced attribute and classification-based security logic.

During system deployment, MindLink was integrated into existing National Security infrastructure through pluggable integration points. User identities and entitlements (attributes) are synchronized from trusted National Security directory servers, whilst mixed-language conversations are automatically translated by existing deployed AI translation services.

MindLink’s information assurance USPs combine to deliver a fully-fledged multitenant collaboration platform suitable for complex heterogeneous coalition working:

- The data-centric security engine automates data access based on expressive classification data labelling and additional powerful entitlement-based controls.
- The “communities of interest” security model facilitates

sharing of information between partner nations in siloed containers with associated information-handling policies and ABAC.

- The deep ethical walling mechanisms enable compartmentalized multi-tenancy, protecting allied and non-allied nation relationships within the same system.
- The integration to National Security directory infrastructure automatically synchronizes updates to user clearances and the “need-to-know”.
- The encrypted immutable event-logged data model mitigates insider-threat attack surfaces from backend database servers.
- The advanced classification engine supports full IC classification markings, enabling expressive and compliant control of data access in real-time using dynamic machine and human-readable labelling.
- The attribute-enabled directory services allows automated discovery and on-boarding of relevant users from foreign partner nations at day-zero readiness.

To deliver this project, the MindLink team worked in close partnership with the customer agency technical program team to develop an advanced multitenant platform using data-centric security principles. MindLink undertook engineering activities to build sophisticated classification labelling and policy-enforcement systems, as well as pluggable integration points to existing National Security directory and AI infrastructure.

Outcomes

Deployment of MindLink has delivered an unprecedent intelligence sharing capability, supporting mission operations between a global cohort of countries in a highly complex operational and political geographic region. Through its advanced native security capabilities, the service provides real-time situational awareness and mission collaboration at the speed of relevance for even highly classified topics.

The MindLink system enables a vital intelligence cycle to operate directly between “first”, “second”, and “third”-party coalition

nations. The seamless and assured information-sharing platform maximizes operational outcomes through timely and secure information exchange towards tangible decision advantage.

MindLink's leveraging of data-centric and attribute-based security techniques enables rapid onboarding of mission partners through automated discovery and trust guarantees. Mission activities may be stood up at day-zero readiness, whilst operational activities may be securely coordinated across multiple coalition nations with minimal administrative overheads.

Ultimately, deployment of MindLink has provided clearly defined and managed sandboxed chat room containers as a rendezvous point for intelligence sharing between disparate partner nations. The system preserves data sovereignty whilst balancing the competing concerns of "need-to-know" and "need-to-share", delivering a unique capability that has encouraged and enhanced novel collaboration between distributed mission participants.

Conclusion

MindLink's high-grade information assurance collaboration platform was deployed by an intelligence agency to facilitate coalition working between 25+ nations in a contested operational environment. MindLink's multitenant data-centric security architecture has significantly enhanced mission outcomes and decision effectiveness through real-time classified intelligence-sharing between a complex mix of heterogeneous coalition partners.