

# CELESTIX SECUREACCESS PLATFORM

Remote access to the corporate network is now an essential requirement and many businesses use Microsoft's DirectAccess as it's easy to deploy and provides tight security. It does have its limitations though, as it is primarily aimed at clients running Windows 7, 8, 8.1 and 10 Enterprise editions and in larger environments, will require dedicated and costly host hardware.

Celestix' SecureAccess Platform (CSP) overcomes these issues as it's designed to simplify and enhance DirectAccess services by providing always on, bidirectional connectivity for remote workers running any version of Windows, from 7 Professional to Enterprise and Mac OS X as well. This is achieved using native DirectAccess or with Celestix' own SecureAccess client software and the platform goes even further as it works alongside Microsoft's new Always On VPN technology which was introduced in the Windows 10 Anniversary Update.

CSP is deployed as a dedicated, purpose-built appliance which is supplied with all software preconfigured. It runs hardened versions of Windows Server 2012 R2 or Server 2016 and is available in hardware, virtual and Amazon Web Services (AWS) versions.

Deployment is very simple and we were impressed with the appliance's COMET HTML5 web console. This provides a centralized front end for managing Windows Server functions and adds additional features that are missing from native Windows Server such as live dashboarding, enhanced reporting and interaction with live DirectAccess sessions.

The web console opens with quick access to all features including remote access configuration. From the Features page you enable the Remote Access with VPN option with one click which turns on native DirectAccess, Celestix SecureAccess and Always On VPN services.

Businesses worried about the complexities of customising and securing their remote access services can rest easy as Celestix provides full configuration services. This dramatically reduces external consultancy fees and support costs as Celestix advised us that it can have a single appliance deployment completed in as little as one day.

The web console is very informative and opens with graphs showing active remote access sessions based on weekly, monthly or yearly periods. Selecting a connection allows you to drill down and see more details such as their status, how long they've been connected and the authentication method used.

You can control live connections by selecting one from the web console and disabling it to stop users reconnecting automatically. The latter will prove an advantage, if a computer has been stolen, as, with one click, you can permanently disable it to stop it connecting again; and Celestix does all the hard work by accessing Active Directory and removing that user's remote access privileges.

This is also a valuable feature where endpoints are suspected of being infected with malware. You can disable remote access immediately, carry out the necessary remediation work and then simply reset the connection from the web console.



Reporting is very detailed and opens with a comprehensive list, showing the total number of connections, along with details of host names, users and dates. This information can be refined down using filters to view specific dates, user names, hosts and protocols, along with options for seeing either DirectAccess or VPN connections. Windows doesn't have any user-friendly facilities to export report information, but COMET does and it offers options to export them in PDF or CSV formats.

The Celestix SecureAccess Platform takes the pain out of remote access deployment and configuration by providing a single, easily managed solution that works seamlessly with Microsoft DirectAccess. Celestix also offers comprehensive 8x5 and 24/7 support services, along with proactive monitoring, so you can reduce the burden on your support department, avoid exorbitant consultancy fees and keep your remote access services running smoothly.

**Product:** SecureAccess Platform

**Supplier:** Celestix

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