



# Austrian Trust Authority provides fast, simple eIDAS digital signature security



A-Trust is a qualified trusted service provider based in Austria that issues digital certificates for the country's citizens and economy to use in a variety of electronic transactions. As one of only three authorized providers in Austria, A-Trust provides certificates for individual users, developers and corporations, as well as consulting services for the development of signature-related applications.

## BUSINESS CHALLENGE

As of April 2017, a regulation known as RKS (Registrierkassensicherheitsverordnung, or Cash Registers Security Regulation) went into effect in Austria. The regulation requires that receipts originating from businesses in the retail, hospitality and service sectors be digitally signed and stored using a unique private key assigned to each business owner. Merchants also must provide records of sales transactions that conform to specific technical standards.

A-Trust saw an opportunity to support businesses in their efforts to become RKS compliant by creating cost-effective solutions capable of automatically fulfilling all necessary requirements. To be attractive to its target market, the products had to be fully secure, be simple to use and be offered at consumer-level pricing.

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- Julia Wolkerstorfer, marketing manager at A-Trust



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## TECHNICAL CHALLENGE

The digital signing requirements of the solutions also subjected it to the European Union's Electronic Identification and Trust Services (eIDAS) regulation. eIDAS regulates electronic transactions and signatures, with the goal of providing a secure and consistent way for users to conduct business online. Any viable A-Trust solution needed to ensure that end-to-end eIDAS compliance was maintained throughout the entire transaction lifecycle.

## SOLUTION

A-Trust and Entrust have a long history of working together to create secure digital signature solutions. The two companies previously collaborated to develop a digital signature for use with mobile phones. The so-called "Handy-Signature" enables individuals to use a digital signature generated on their mobile phone, in place of a conventional handwritten signature, to complete transactions throughout the European Union. This gave A-Trust a strong eIDAS-compliant mobile digital signature solution that it could market across dozens of countries.

The collaboration was so successful that the A-Trust technical team again turned to Entrust to support them with a hardware-based RKSX solution. A-Trust had previously used Entrust nShield® Solo hardware security modules (HSMs) as they provided the optimal combination of price, performance and features, and they elected to use this same solution again.

The nShield Solo HSM is a hardened, tamper-resistant platform that supports encryption and digital signing along with key generation and protection. Entrust has earned the Common Criteria (CC) certification which recognizes nShield HSMs as Secure Signature Creation Devices (SSCDs). This means that nShield Solo HSMs provide the digital signatures, time stamps and other transactional data necessary to enable A-Trust to comply with RKSX and the cross-border standards mandated by eIDAS.

## BENEFITS

Julia Wolkerstorfer, marketing manager at A-Trust, commented, "We've used Entrust nShield Solo HSMs in several A-Trust solutions and our engineering staff have always found it to be easy to use and highly flexible in each implementation we've undertaken."



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- Julia Wolkerstorfer, marketing manager at A-Trust

Entrust nShield HSMs are integrated into end-user environments and are also used for the back-end processing in A-Trust's data center. "The unit cost and performance of nShield HSMs enable us to offer a commodity-priced device that is simple enough for even the most technically-adverse merchant to understand and operate," commented Wolkerstorfer. "This saves business owners both time and money, and makes our solutions very compelling in the markets we serve."

While the HSM solution was initially sold particularly in Austria, A-Trust is rapidly expanding to a growing number of other European countries. "Entrust nShield HSMs can effortlessly scale to handle high volumes. The ease of deployment - coupled with the features and functionality - actively support our ambitious growth objectives," stated Wolkerstorfer.

The growing prominence of A-Trust across Europe has created a huge demand for the company's products. "For very good reasons, this has been a very intense year for us and Entrust has been wonderful in its support and in responding to our requests," noted Wolkerstorfer. "We view the relationship as a first-rate partnership and one that is critical to helping A-Trust provide the absolute highest levels of security to our customers."

She concluded, "Trust, integrity and security are the foundations of our company, and Entrust helps us to achieve those goals."



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## SIMPLICITY, SECURITY AND PERFORMANCE

### Business need

- Offer merchants a device (HSM) to support certified digital signatures
- Create a cost-effective, simple-to-use solution
- Enable scalability to facilitate ambitious growth plans

### Technology need

- Ensure compliance with RKSX and eIDAS standards
- Easy to deploy

### Solution

- Entrust nShield Solo HSM

### Result

- Breakthrough product that is exceeding expectations
- Full end-to-end compliance with all applicable regulations
- Enterprise-grade security delivered in a consumer device

## ABOUT ENTRUST

Entrust keeps the world moving safely by enabling trusted identities, payments and data protection. Today more than ever, people demand seamless, secure experiences, whether they're crossing borders, making a purchase, accessing e-government services or logging into corporate networks. Entrust offers an unmatched breadth of digital security and credential issuance solutions at the very heart of all these interactions. With more than 2,500 colleagues, a network of global partners, and customers in over 150 countries, it's no wonder the world's most entrusted organizations trust us.



Learn more at

[entrust.com/HSM](https://entrust.com/HSM)



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