

Benefits of TeSA

What is TeSA?

Technology-enabled Shared Accommodation (TeSA) is a suite of services that allows staff from multiple organisations that work out of shared accommodation to access and share common resources at that physical site.

TeSA services allow for a consistent user experience. It appears simply as if staff are working from a single organisation's resources, despite securely sharing these resources with other organisations within their accommodation.

TeSA allows organisations within the same building to share the building's common facilities. In addition, it can be configured to enable approved visitors, access to their agency network services when present in the building. This enhances productivity as it means they are not confined to limited or dedicated guest services. Such services are particularly beneficial when a visitor is a member of the agency, but not based in that building, or a member of a partner organisation visiting the building.

What does it include?

TeSA allows for a shared network and services infrastructure. It enables users in multi-tenanted government buildings to consume services without the need to duplicate the infrastructure. It is one-trust point. Basically, it shares the one connection idea of the network service with an 'all of government' directory or identity store of users, devices and other resources (even down to meeting rooms).

AT A GLANCE:

Decrease the cost of managing your credentials

Reduce duplication of infrastructure

Comply with regulations

Reduce interoperability complexities

One-trust point

TeSA Inclusions

The inclusions are infinite but some of the immediate resources/assets from TeSA include:

- 802.1x wired and Wi-Fi network connections.
- Visitor management systems.
- Locker systems.
- Meeting room booking systems.
- Printing solutions including 'Follow Me Print'.

What are the business drivers?

There are a number of business drivers pushing the adoption of TeSA, this includes the cost to manage credentials, difficulties in complying with regulations and the interoperability complexities associated with supporting multiple identity protocols.

Organisations need only establish one connection that allows the authentication of third parties rather than a complex web of connections. Efficiencies are gained in that each organisation only needs to integrate with the identity broker within TeSA once to be able to accept many types of credentials, with rules assigned regarding what can be accessed.

Overall, the lack of clear, cohesive communication between and integration of organisations was a strong business driver. There are a number of challenges that TeSA is able to address including:

- A lack of organisational efficiency from the struggle for staff to find available desks, software, and hardware.
- Duplication of infrastructure, such as each organisation using a different network provider.
- Increased costs of duplicated infrastructure and managing multiple credentials.
- Increased complexity of multiple network providers, such as several, concurrent Visitor Management Systems.
- Increased complexity of customised facilities, such as shared lockers.
- Linkages between multiple identity stores and supporting multiple identity protocols.
- Complex management of shared attributes, not including an organisation's passwords.
- Management of network and other access.
- Difficulties complying with multiple sets of regulations.

Enhanced Efficiency

TeSA allows an organisation to establish a single connection that utilises the authentication of third-party organisations, rather than operating through a complex network of connections. TeSA proves more efficient than previous shared accommodation systems by requiring that each organisation only integrate with the identity broker once, accepting several types of credentials with assigned limitations on what each organisation can and cannot access.

What are the benefits?

Reduce Complexity and Costs

TeSA reduces the complexity associated with operating within shared accommodation by allowing one organisation to provide the infrastructure used in the day-to-day functioning of the space, identifying these, and allowing the other organisations within the shared accommodation to securely share these facilities services. The separate organisations can share a single Visitor Management System, photocopiers and printers, or shared lockers, which reduces the need for duplicated systems running concurrently and prevents unnecessarily duplicated costs. TeSA solutions integrate complex infrastructure networks into a seamless, cohesive system.

Generate Business Insights

TeSA's reporting system can provide valuable statistics and insights regarding the utilisation of space within a shared building that are difficult to determine through other means. As TeSA tracks the movements of staff within a building, it can generate live reports that staff can utilise to efficiently determine what zones are in high demand and what desks are available for them, without the need to spend time searching the office floor or rely on anecdotal experience. TeSA reporting can also provide information on the availability of meeting rooms and track the flow of staff over a set period.

Linking Organisations Across Buildings

The platform behind TeSA, Jellyfish, can interface with multiple building's Physical Access Control systems (PACs). If an organisation's staff were split across multiple locations, such as having offices in multiple cities, a user can be automatically provisioned access to the different building's PAC systems from a single location. Jellyfish also allows the customisation of a user's permissions based upon the access requirements of their organisational role.

Tracking and Tracing applications

TeSA allows the location of an individual within a building to be determined by tracking where their computer was last located within the network, or via tracking their access through a door barrier system. This information can give timeframes of when individuals were located within a building, and who is located in a specific area, beneficial for security and emergency response.

Increase Security

TeSA systems are secure by design, allowing organisations to retain control over the handling of their own data. The configuration of the shared infrastructure is managed by the organisations themselves or by the connectivity providers.

Strong authentication

TeSA systems also support the implementation of stronger authentication of users in the network. Jellyfish allows for multiple types of credentials to be provisioned and automates the process, and also allows a user's physical and logical access to be deprovisioned simultaneously if their pass were confiscated

Our Experience

Cogito Group has successfully deployed TeSA systems for multiple government agencies, solving the complex problems of large-scale organisational integration. To do this, Cogito Group implemented the Jellyfish Network Access Engine (NAE) and its Shared Access Federated Directory (SAfD). These projects have allowed several government organisations to share accommodation and services without requiring organisations being in the same security domains. It has allowed these organisations to share Wi-Fi, printing, visitor management systems, meeting room booking systems, secure locker systems and more in a secure and efficient manner.

About Cogito Group

Cogito Group is an award-winning, Australian owned and operated ICT company, specialising in authentication, cloud security, identity management and data protection. Cogito Group protect the authentication methods used to access information through the use of Identity and other security technologies. Cogito Group protect data not only from unauthorised access and disclosure, but also from being altered by an unauthorised third party or a trusted insider with malicious intent. This assists in the detection and prevention of fraud or other malicious activities by third parties or trusted insiders.