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Universal Certificate Authentication to Key Applications at Argonne National Laboratory

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Argonne National Laboratory has implemented a laboratory-wide portal that provides centralized access to key administrative applications and employs certificates for authentication. This portal relies on an infrastructure comprising Microsoft Active Directory, Microsoft Certificate Services, Sun Microsystems Java Enterprise Suite, and open-source software. The capabilities of the Microsoft, Sun, and open-source products have enabled Argonne to readily deploy certificates for partial, as well as for end-to-end, authentication from all Argonne client operating systems. The Argonne experience demonstrates that certificate authentication to corporate applications is readily doable today. Further, the adoption of these technologies positions Argonne to exploit widespread certificate deployments, as intended by Homeland Security Presidential Directive-12.

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