

THE QUEST - CATERPILLAR PROJECT IMPROVING THE USER EXPERIENCE OF AUTHENTICATION

STUDENT TEAM: THE CATERPILLAR EFFECT				
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PROJECT SUMMARY

With over 95,000 employees and \$38 billion in revenue, Caterpillar has expanded from its California roots into an internationally recognized symbol of quality machinery. Caterpillar's major product lines are Construction, Mining Equipment, Diesel & Natural Gas Engines, Industrial Gas Turbines, and Diesel-Electric Locomotives. The departments involved in this project are Global Information Services (GIS) Division and Identity and Access Management (IAM), which aim to eliminate reliance on passwords by 2020.Caterpillar passwords have grown in length and complexity in order to meet security requirements. This makes it more difficult to create and remember passwords, leading to exasperated users and increased demand on call centers. As a result, Caterpillar is exploring the idea of implementing password alternatives for their authentication system to increase user satisfaction with authentication. The users accessing Caterpillar Web Services are customers, workforce, and suppliers/dealers. The team's recommendations will fit into Caterpillar's overall timeline for password replacement, allow them to conduct proofs of concepts (POC's), select a product, and implement the solution.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Caterpillar Effect first conducted stakeholder analysis to define functional and technical requirements. Then, they conducted online research, gathered Caterpillar data, administered surveys, and worked with a CMSC435 team to develop an authentication test bench. Lastly, they did holistic data analysis to create a segmented strategy. The team recommends fingerprint and facial recognition for customers, employees, and suppliers/dealers. In addition, they recommend social login for customers and USB key for employees. Some technologies to keep on a watch list are behavior analytics and heart rate. Potential vendors include Okta, Bitium, Gemal-to, Deepnet Security, and SecureAuth. Moving forward, Caterpillar will be able to improve user experience, provide increased security, and increase customer retention by investing in Caterpillar's digital strategy.