

With Zscaler™, ARMA Helps 2 Million Polish Farmers Continue to Get Paid



Agencja Restrukturyzacji
i Modernizacji Rolnictwa

Agency for Restructuring and
Modernisation of Agriculture (ARMA)

www.arimr.gov.pl

Location: Poland

Industry: Government

Products:
Zscaler Internet Access™,
Zscaler Private Access™

The Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture (ARMA) was established in 1994 to support the development of agriculture and rural areas. As an accredited paying agency, ARMA processes applications, verifications, and other forms, as well as paying refunds for more than 2 million farmers and others in the agricultural industry throughout Poland. ARMA is considered one of the most innovative Polish government agencies which it demonstrated once more in its quick response to the pandemic. By leveraging bring-your-own-device (BYOD) policies and Zscaler, ARMA provided employees a secure way to work from home.

One small step

In his quest to continually provide enhanced services for the more than 11,000 employees at ARMA, Mariusz Głębocki, the organization's CIO, began exploring solutions to fit the needs of its growing mobile and remote workforce. The solution needed to provide a secure and stable connection to their applications when working away from the office. After an impressive proof of concept, Głębocki selected Zscaler Private Access™ and Zscaler Internet Access™ to provide secure access when the 300 members of his IT team worked outside of the traditional office setting.

"Zscaler is a very good solution from a security and user experience perspective. It's much better than an employee having to use a VPN when working remotely," Mr. Głębocki said.

A big leap: From 300 to 6,000 users in one week

Just like every other organization around the world, ARMA found itself dealing with the impact of the global pandemic and the rush to enable employees to work from home. "When COVID-19 hit, we needed to support all employees who were suddenly working remotely, so we quickly expand our Zscaler deployment from the IT team to all 6,000 employees working remotely," Mr. Głębocki said.

“ Employees can't imagine a work model without the flexibility and mobility that we have right now. Our estimations are that employee productivity and efficiency increased by about 30 percent. ”

– Mariusz Głębocki
CIO/CTO
ARMA

Even with the sudden increase, getting Zscaler up and running for all of these employees went smoothly and was completed in short order, as time was of the essence.

“Zscaler is very flexible,” said Mr. Głębocki. “It was an easy deployment for us because many of our policies were based in Microsoft’s Active Directory. So we were able to easily transfer those policies to Zscaler.”

Reacting quickly without sacrificing security

As a government agency, ARMA has to focus on security and keeping its user data safe. And the solution it chose must be in compliance with strict internal and external regulations. “Zscaler adheres to rigorous security standards that help us meet our compliance requirements,” Mr. Głębocki said.

One of the greatest benefits was that the organization didn’t have to invest in its security infrastructure to provide mobility and flexibility to its workforce. The Zscaler cloud service gave ARMA the security it needed with the functionality it required. This was a critical factor and ultimately is what led it to select Zscaler and deploy it organization-wide. Time was the most critical factor. ARMA compared Zscaler to other solutions on the market, and nothing came close to meeting its timeline.

A new work model built for flexibility and mobility

While the sudden switch to working at home was a bit of a disruption for some other agencies, the ARMA employees have thrived in this new environment.

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“ Using Zscaler gave us the confidence to launch a bring-your-own-device program. We pushed some policies and encouraged our employees to use their own devices. This will open up many more possibilities. ”

– Mariusz Głębocki | CIO/CTO | ARMA

WINS

- Enabled 6,000 users to work remotely.
- Estimated 30-percent increase in employee productivity.
- Completed rollout in two weeks.

Our estimations are that employee productivity and efficiency increased by about 30 percent,” Mr. Głębocki said. “The work-from-anywhere model is a clear benefit for our employees. It’s definitely going to define how we as an agency work in the future.”

It was also crucial that ARMA’s external customers—the more than 2 million farmers and others in the agricultural industry throughout Poland that relied on the agency—saw no change in the service they received.

“Our core business processes weren’t interrupted during or after the transition process. Everything went very smoothly, and our customers didn’t see any negative impact in the services we deliver” Mr. Głębocki said.

In addition to a more flexible work-from-anywhere model, the security of the Zscaler platform has opened the door to ARMA adopting more programs to help redesign the workplace.

“Using Zscaler gave us the confidence to launch a bring-your-own-device program. We pushed some policies and encouraged our employees to use their own devices. This will open up many more possibilities,” Mr. Głębocki said.

Even more transformation

Often, times of significant disruption are also the biggest drivers of change, as was the case for ARMA. It was just starting on its digital transformation path when the global pandemic hit, which gave its transformation journey quite a boost.

"The situation that we have right now, it's an opportunity for us to be more and more aggressive in completing our digital transformation journey," Mr. Głębocki said.

Mr. Głębocki also hopes that the success ARMA has had with its digital transformation will propel others to move forward with their transformation.

“ The time was critical, and Zscaler was able to deliver immediately. ”

– Mariusz Głębocki | CIO/CTO | ARMA

About Zscaler

Zscaler enables the world's leading organizations to securely transform their networks and applications for a mobile and cloud-first world. Its flagship services, Zscaler Internet Access™ and Zscaler Private Access™, create fast, secure connections between users and applications, regardless of device, location, or network. Zscaler services are 100-percent cloud delivered and offer the simplicity, enhanced security, and improved user experience that traditional appliances or hybrid solutions are unable to match. Used in more than 185 countries, Zscaler operates a multitenant, distributed cloud security platform that protects thousands of customers from cyberattacks and data loss. Learn more at [zscaler.com](https://www.zscaler.com) or follow us on [Twitter @zscaler](https://twitter.com/zscaler).

About ARMA

The Agency for Restructuring and Modernization of Agriculture (ARMA) was established in 1994 to support the development of agriculture and rural areas. ARMA has been designated by the Polish government to act as an accredited paying agency. It deals with the implementation of instruments co-financed from the European Union budget and provides assistance from national funds.

