
# ADSS GoSign – the Most Flexible Client-side Signer

ADSS Server enables business processes to sign PDF Documents, XML data and other files data, and Emails in multiple different ways, including:

- **Server-side signing** (using corporate keys / certificates for the organisation or department or role)
- **Server-side signing** (using end-user keys / certificates protected by an authorisation mechanism)
- **Client-side signing** (using local keys /certificates held inside a Windows key store, or smartcard or within a PKCS#11 environment, e.g. on non-Windows systems)

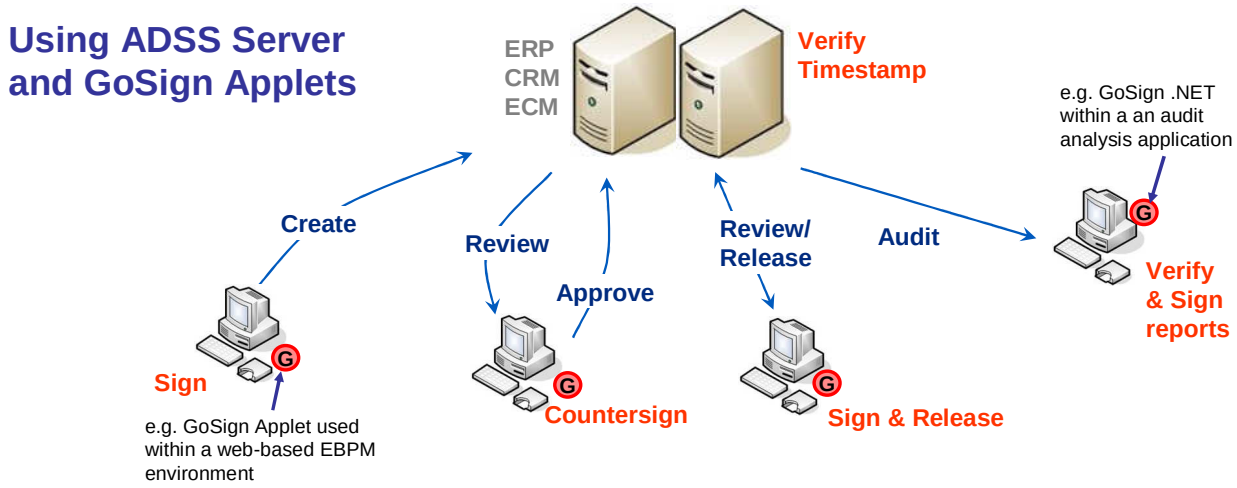
Client-side signing sounds easy enough, but there have been problems associated with this approach, in particular the typical requirement for local software installation. For multi-third party environments (e.g. Business to business, Banks to their corporate or retail customers) there is a very strong requirement to have zero-installation signing – no organisation wishes to own any problems that arise from forcing people to install and use desktop software, and indeed some organisations do not allow this.

Ascertia has created a perfect solution for this, ADSS GoSign. GoSign addresses a range of business and technical requirements and shows that, although simple in concept, the ADSS Server and GoSign Applet (or GoSign API) combination is incredibly powerful and flexible:

- Provides total business control:
  GoSign Applet allows the web-application developer to have complete control over the look and feel of the user interface, Ascertia provides sample web-pages to show how quickly a solution can be deployed and how easily the business can own the interaction with the customer, using terms that are meaningful to the business and the end-user (rather than using technical terms decided by Ascertia or other internal or external developers)
- Maximises simplicity for the end-user:
  ADSS Server has been designed to make it easy for busy managers. The business application doesn't need to understand signing complexities, it can call on ADSS Server to prepare the document for signing and ask GoSign Applet to sign this locally.
- Enables great trust control:
  The application can control whether to ask the user to select a certificate from a list of acceptable certificates or it can instruct GoSign Applet to find a specific certificate and use this to sign the data. In many cases the business managers have little idea about which certificate is the right one to use.
- Intelligent selection of signing certificates:
  The business application can instruct GoSign Applet to find specific certificate(s) based on common name, issuer name and other parameters including key usage and other elements, thus removing any confusion from the end-user about which certificate is the right one to use to sign
- Simple, small, effective:
  GoSign Applet works with the ADSS Server to minimise complexity within the applet and thus ensure it is as small as possible whilst having advanced functionality
- Support multiple business documents and data:
  GoSign Applet can sign PDF documents as well as forms and other files and even web-mail. It can sign using XML signatures, other variants can sign and upload documents or files
- Supports the expected certificate stores:
  GoSign Applet is able to select certificates from with the Windows CAPI key and certificate store (on non-Windows systems a PKCS#11 variant can be deployed)
- It reduces application complexity:
  ADSS Server takes care of the other complexities such as signature position, signature appearance, whether a timestamp should be applied, whether a PDF should be certified, whether the data needs to be handled in some other way to suit the application, e.g. webmail. All the parameters are configured in easy to use signing profiles on the server.
- Provide trust services after signing:
  The application needs to check that the certificate is acceptable - ADSS Server provides all the trust policy controls needed to check that the end-user signature verifies and trusted

- Supports two factor devices:
  In addition to software keys and certificates, smartcards and USB crypto-tokens are automatically supported via Windows CAPI (and optionally via PKCS#11)
- Handles advanced functionality:
  Working with the ADSS Server a timestamp can be appended to the end-user signature and the OCSP-based certificate validation data can also be embedded to create long-term signatures
- Support for other environments such as desktop applications using .NET or Java:
  GoSign is also available in non-applet form to suit use with desktop .NET applications and indeed this can be extended to other language environments, e.g. Java on Linux. GoSign .NET handles the key and certificate filtering and signing operations, interacting with ADSS as before

ADSS Server and ADSS GoSign Applets are expected to be used within simple or complex business workflows to provide the trust, traceability and integrity services needed to ensure strong internal controls and accountability. The following diagram summarises the ways in which GoSign can be used to sign and approve document workflows:




The core signing functionality is within GoSign Applet or GoSign .NET and the policy controls reside within the ADSS Server. The ADSS Server security management interface ensures that only role-privileged operators can change these policies and if required dual controls can be enabled so that 'four-eyes' control can easily be applied.

Licensing is flexible and cost effective for ADSS GoSign – the licenses are just an extension of the ADSS Licenses. A single per-server charge enables use of the applet and then multiple users are licensed across the environment (irrespective of the number of servers).

ADSS GoSign is suitable for a wide variety of deployment scenarios; ask us for information on how we can supply variants to suit a range of needs including:

- Web-based signing of PDF documents
- Web-based signing of forms
- Signed upload of local files
- Web-Mail environments
- Processing encrypted emails
- Handling encryption for files, emails, PDFs

Ascertia is a world-leader at providing flexible, scalable and easy to manage solutions that outpace all other approaches in meeting today's constantly changing demands.

## Need more information?

Ask us for further information on how we can deliver trust services that protect your business documents and workflow processes info@ascertia.com