

FOCUS ON CYBER SECURITY

in ITALics Keeping It Safe

By Bill Munson, Vice-President, ITAC

As online usage grows, so do the associated risks. Organizations that embrace new technologies to enhance operational efficiencies, service levels, productivity and competitiveness need to be fully aware of the risks of losing sensitive data or network access – or even control. They also need to be fully aware that they must take firm actions to protect themselves from increasingly sophisticated attacks by ill-intentioned outsiders.

ITAC's quarterly Cyber Security Forum meetings feature presentations and discussion among ICT industry experts and government officials of emerging and ongoing cyber-security trends and approaches, threats and responses. The problems are many and complex – and so is the array of potential solutions available. SecureKey, profiled below, is on deck to present on lessons learned from the Heartbleed bug at our June 3 CSF meeting, and we expect that HDS, also profiled below, will present in future.

All ITAC members are welcome to be added to the CSF mailing list and to participate in meetings as they wish. Please contact Bill Munson for additional information: bmunson@itac.ca

Authentically You



André Boysen,
EVP Marketing
SecureKey

Quick! Who was your best friend in primary school?

Chances are, if you have been online long enough, you have left the answer to a knowledge-based question like that somewhere as a key to identify yourself to some website or other. Maybe your memory of Bobby or Samantha was fresher then, than it is a decade later, especially if you are struggling to recall it while you fumble with your smart device in a panic to re-enter a site.

And, what about that clever password you chose for that site you haven't used in six months? Remember that?

Toronto-based SecureKey Technologies wants to change the way social media, healthcare providers, government, utility companies, and others authenticate your identity in the digital realm.

"We need to change the approach to how online authentication works," says André Boysen, EVP Marketing at SecureKey. "As it exists, it's an inside/out process. What makes more sense is to come at it from the consumer's point of view, and make sites recognize what you already have to authenticate who you are."

The company is winning converts to its belief that the traditional username/password/security question combination has run its course and, in fact, may be contributing to identity theft and data loss. Its cloud-based solution allows service providers to authenticate who you are in the same manner that your chip-enhanced credit card does.

The Government of Canada selected SecureKey to allow Canadians to use their existing bank authentication credentials to obtain access to online government services, a project that made SecureKey a finalist in the 2013 Ingenious Awards Program.

It has also provided online card, virtual card, and device-secured authentication and payment solutions to numerous e-commerce websites looking for improved conversion rates and faster checkout. Recently, the company secured a contract to provide secure authentication to the United States Postal Service, and is poised to announce another large government project related to the issuance of a secure identity card.

"We are very in favour of open government," says André. "We can take a lot of the costs out, and governments have really embraced our approach to secure identity validation."

Given the rapid increase in data breaches – from Target to the Canadian Revenue Agency – he acknowledges that some skepticism about online security is warranted, but says removing the burden of proving identity from consumers and creating cloud-based, trusted identity networks will regain faith.

"We want to change the paradigm to embrace the behaviour and devices that consumers already like."



Paul Lewis,
Hitachi Data Systems Canada Chief
Technology Officer

Data Solutions For Today's Challenges

Information, in one form or another, has always been the lifeblood of business. Now, with big data, cloud storage and other technologies playing an increasingly important role in the success of businesses of all sizes in a wide range of sectors, having an infrastructure that can handle changing demands is also growing in importance. Keeping that data secure and manageable has also become a business priority – no longer simply the purview of the IT department, but something that every forward-looking organization is building into its overall risk-management and strategic-planning cycle.

A subsidiary of Tokyo-based Hitachi Ltd., Hitachi Data Systems (HDS) provides information technologies, services and solutions to organizations in more than 100 countries and regions. In Canada, HDS has gained an important foothold in a number of industries. ITAC Online asked Paul Lewis, HDS Canada's Chief Technology Officer since September 2013, to provide an overview of the company and how it addresses some of today's most-pressing business concerns.

ITAC Online: Provide an overview of what HDS offers and some measure of the growth in the secure data storage area?

Paul Lewis: HDS offers storage products that:

- Facilitate compliance with prevailing data security standards associated with privacy, retention, accountability, authenticity, secure provenance, and access control;
- Deliver security and virtualization features that protect and defend customer information and systems;
- Provide consistent, cross-product security features and functionality that leverage customer security investments; and
- Demonstrate trustworthiness through the use of proven security technologies and methodologies as well as by achieving product-based security certifications.

Data breaches are becoming significant business issues – both from a cost and a reputation perspective. Obviously, data is vulnerable at many points, but how does a data storage solution like HDS offers help organizations kept digital assets such as customer data safe?

HDS storage products protect critical data throughout the storage ecosystem. In addition to our market-leading encryption offerings, which allow customers to protect their most sensitive data, HDS security technologies enable customers to protect information where it sits and when it moves. With the recent addition of HCP Anywhere, we offer a cloud-based storage infrastructure that can protect, retain, and secure information no matter where it is being accessed from.

With data security so top of mind right now, what are your top recommendations that every organization should consider to ensure they're not at risk?

Implement a consistent security policy throughout your infrastructure and protect information assets on a risk-based approach.

While encryption is an excellent method of protecting critical information it is not a 'cure all' for every security issue. Make sure that the storage infrastructure that you use participates in the broader security infrastructure with capabilities like event management and audit logging, external authentication and authorization to name a few.

ITAC Events

ITAC Executive Briefing with Toni Moffa, Deputy Chief of IT Security at CSEC

Ottawa – Tuesday, June 3

ITAC Executive Briefing – Digital Wallets

Toronto – Wednesday, June 11

Board of Governors Dinner with Eugene Roman

Toronto – Thursday, June 12

ITAC SMCouncil Best Practice Forum – “Today's Electronic Failure Analyses For Tomorrow's Market Success”

Mississauga – Tuesday, June 17

ITAC SMCouncil Best Practice Forum – “Today's Electronic Failure Analyses For Tomorrow's Market Success”

Gatineau, Quebec – Wednesday, June 18

ITAC/WCT – Women in Leadership Speaker Series

Toronto – Wednesday, June 25

21st Annual ITAC “IT Challenge” Golf Tournament and Luncheon

Toronto – Wednesday, September 17

ITAC 2014 Ingenious Awards Gala Reception and Dinner

Toronto – Wednesday, November 12

ITAC News

Inaugural Palestinian Trade Mission Seeks Canadian ICT Companies

Introducing ITAC's Digital Economy Policy Forum

2014 Ingenious Awards Nominations Are Open

Canada Supports Internships in High-Demand Fields

Microsoft Announces New Vancouver Innovation Centre