

HP and Hitachi to collaborate on security and privacy research

PALO ALTO, Calif., and TOKYO, Japan, January 17, 2006 --- HP (NYSE, Nasdaq: HPQ) and Hitachi, Ltd. (NYSE:HIT/TSE:6501) today announced that researchers from HP Labs Bristol, UK., and Princeton, N.J., and the Hitachi Systems Development Laboratory, will conduct joint work on key security and privacy issues.

The HP and Hitachi research collaboration will focus on two primary themes: authenticating users and devices to improve security inside networks and the use of digital signatures to guarantee the authenticity of document content.

The first theme, network security and authentication, has been stimulated by the constant threat to IT infrastructures from, among many others, impersonation, computer viruses and worms. To combat these threats, HP and Hitachi researchers are investigating how to ensure that computers used to access corporate networks remotely – from home or from a hotel room, for instance – are appropriately authorized. The researchers are interested in developing technologies for a secure infrastructure that manages communications based on the authentication of the integrity of both the PC and the user.

This approach will take advantage of authentication technologies such as Hitachi's Certificate Validation Server (CVS) and the HP ProtectTools Embedded Security PC solution. The researchers will investigate innovative, yet highly practical, ways to deploy "trusted computing" technology in corporate settings. The goal of this project is to significantly improve important aspects of IT infrastructure security by providing a high-grade, lower-cost technology foundation for enforceable security policy and strengthened identity across a range of devices.

The focus of the second theme, content security research, is to address the problem of how to guarantee the integrity of documents and data by using digital signatures while allowing changes to be made to them.

For example, it may be necessary to delete sensitive data such as names and company secrets from a document for reasons of privacy or confidentiality, yet show that the visible portion of the document is authentic. This process is regularly applied to documents affected by the U.S. Freedom of Information Act and similar laws in other countries. This type of technology would also help ensure the authenticity and integrity of audit trails, an important issue for companies complying with legislation such as Sarbanes-Oxley.

Content security could also be used to demonstrate the integrity of audit trails, for example to third-party auditors, while still retaining confidentiality and privacy of the data contained within.

“This collaboration highlights HP Labs’ and Hitachi Labs’ common interest in security research and our aim to bring about secure systems and infrastructure technologies for modern enterprise needs,” said Dick Lampman, senior vice president of research, HP, and director, HP Labs. “HP and Hitachi have had technology alliances that have spanned 16 years, and this is an extension of our partnership to further leverage our research and development.”

Dr. Akira Maeda, general manager of Systems Development Laboratory, Hitachi., added: “Hitachi and HP both recognize the increasing importance of security. This collaboration is expected to contribute to a dramatic increase in customer satisfaction by delivering entirely new security backbones.”

About Hitachi, Ltd.

Hitachi, Ltd., (NYSE: HIT/ TSE: 6501), headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, is a leading global electronics company with approximately 347,000 employees worldwide. Fiscal 2004 (ended March 31, 2005) consolidated sales totaled 9,027.0 billion yen (\$84.4 billion). The company offers a wide range of systems, products and services in market sectors including information systems, electronic devices, power and industrial systems, consumer products, materials and financial services. For more information on Hitachi, please visit the company’s website at <http://www.hitachi.com>.

About HP

HP is a technology solutions provider to consumers, businesses and institutions globally. The company’s offerings span IT infrastructure, global services, business and home computing, and imaging and printing. For the four fiscal quarters ended Oct. 31, 2005, HP revenue totaled \$86.7 billion. More information about HP (NYSE, Nasdaq: HPQ) is available at www.hp.com.

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