

Going green by cutting costs

Secure tokens prove to be the expensive choice for both planet and pocket

London, 20 August 2007 - IT departments should take the environmental mantra 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' to heart when planning their IT security, according to Reading-based software company, SecurEnvoy. Instead of buying and distributing two-factor authentication tokens to their workforce, companies should look at the equipment they already have, particularly mobile phones, to make carbon and cost savings.

SecurEnvoy, whose SecurAccess software enables mobile phones to be used as 'virtual' tokens, has launched an online calculator to measure the environmental impact of the distribution of standard secure tokens. As an example it has calculated that each time hardware tokens are delivered to 3,000 employees, it can take 1,800 trees one year to offset the carbon from the distribution process. Since tokens are easily lost and frequently misplaced, the amount of CO2 emitted keeps increasing.

That same company of 3,000 users can save approximately 65 per cent of the cost of the hardware alternatives by using mobile phones instead of physical tokens.

Steve Watts, sales director at SecurEnvoy said, "When we looked into this we were quite surprised by the results we got – and these calculations don't even begin to take into consideration the CO2 emissions from the manufacture of the tokens, or their eventual disposal. Delivery from manufacturer to purchaser normally constitutes a journey across three continents, with five stops along the way before it reaches the end user.

"This is in addition to the carbon produced by the manufacturing process, which uses plastic, smelting procedures, batteries and quartz, which all have toxic elements. As tokens contain LCD screens and other hazardous materials, firms are legally obliged to collect all tokens at the end of their life and dispose of them properly."

SecurAccess enables IT managers to save money and cut carbon emissions without compromising security. It authenticates users by sending a single-use passcode to their mobile phones, which they use as a second factor to their PIN or password to access the corporate system. Once the passcode has been used, it is automatically replaced. Users therefore still have to provide something they know and something they have to access valuable data.

Watts says: "Our customers have told us that our products are both convenient and cost-effective and that is why they chose them. But now it seems that there is another extremely compelling reason to look at alternatives to security tokens."

The SecurEnvoy calculator is available here: www.securenvoy.com/co2.aspx

Impact of distributing physical tokens, and cost savings using virtual tokens instead:

Number of users	Savings over 3 years	Savings over 4 years	Savings over 5 years	Number of trees required to offset emissions from distribution
1,000	60%	67%	63%	600
3,000	65%	71%	68%	1,800
5,000	70%	75%	72%	3,000
10,000	70%	75%	72%	5,999
20,000	70%	75%	72%	11,999
50,000	70%	75%	72%	29,997

Please note: Cost savings are approximate and will depend on your specific circumstances. To calculate these figures for your organisation please visit: http://www.securenvoy.com/Products/Securaccess/SecurEnvoy_Token_Cost_Comparison.xls

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About SecurEnvoy:

SecurEnvoy Ltd is a leading security technology company developing pioneering software for authentication solutions. Its current products include mobile two-factor authentication mechanisms for remote access, securing email and Microsoft Windows password management.

SecurEnvoy's aim is to be the dominant supplier of two-factor authentication solutions by designing and supporting innovative systems that are ahead of the competition in terms of cost, usability and support. The company has four patents pending, and four applications within its tokenless two-factor authentication suite.

Established in 2000, SecurEnvoy has its head office in Theale (Reading) from which it serves UK and European customers. www.securenvoy.com

Press Contact:

Catherine Eyres
SPARX Communications
Tel: 0207 487 8443
Email: Catherine@sparxgroup.co.uk