

LIVINGSTONE PARTNERS WITH NETCOMM FOR WEBSPY'S AUSTRALIAN LAUNCH

Livingstone Group Limited and NetComm Limited today jointly announced the launch in Australia of WebSpy, a range of Internet monitoring and management tools aimed at combating Internet misuse in the workforce.

Livingstone estimates that unauthorised use of the web in office time costs the Australian economy up to \$1 billion a year in lost productivity. The partners say that WebSpy's ability to counter this serious and fast-growing problem gives the product huge market potential.

NetComm has taken on the role of Country Partner to distribute, market and support WebSpy, which was developed by Livingstone.

WebSpy tools allow businesses, government and educational institutions to regulate and evaluate their employees' use of the Internet.

Livingstone Managing Director, Jack Andrys, says: "We prefer to focus on our strengths in developing and enhancing the software, while NetComm takes on the role of Country Partner, producing and distributing the product and handling marketing and support in Australia.

"We are pleased to align our software development skills with their strengths. NetComm has a long and successful track record, an established client base and widespread distributor channel support. The partnership will ensure a big future in Australia for WebSpy."

NetComm Managing Director, David Stewart, says: "WebSpy has huge potential. Some 2¾ million people in Australia use the Internet at work, so every employer needs a solution like this to combat misuse of the Internet by staff."

"Misuse can include browsing the web during working hours, overloading a system by downloading multiple megabytes of data, sending and receiving illicit email, and visiting forbidden web sites. The cost in lost time can be staggering, and with more onus being placed on employers to take responsibility for their staff's use of the Internet, few can afford to be complacent."

According to David Stewart, becoming the Country Partner for WebSpy will fit into NetComm's business model for offering corporate communications hardware and software solutions, based on networking and the Internet. Currently NetComm is successfully providing Zetafax network fax solutions for small to medium businesses and corporates through its Country Partner arrangement for the product in Australia.

WebSpy tools allow systems managers to view all Internet traffic on a network through a simple interface. WebSpy generates comprehensive reports on Internet traffic in HTML,

Word or Excel, and allows in-depth analysis of user sessions. It can analyse the Internet traffic of individuals, specified groups or an entire organisation.

Rather than blocking and filtering a known selection of web sites, like most Internet access management applications, WebSpy promotes self-management and self-regulation by monitoring and reporting on Internet use.

WebSpy was introduced to the US market at Comdex Fall, where Livingstone is targeting a growing market estimated to reach \$US1 billion. In London, a sales and marketing operation has been established to service the European market and as recently as last week, Livingstone, through this office, announced the appointment of key distribution partners for the region.

Further discussions are under way between NetComm and Livingstone, with a view to securing a closer relationship.

ABOUT WEBSPY

The WebSpy family of Internet monitoring and management software is made up of two individual applications: WebSpy Reporter and WebSpy Sentinel.

WebSpy Reporter collates information obtained from network log files and presents the data in a user friendly format enabling easy analysis of user sessions. Reporter can be used by organizations with proxy server or firewall applications, or it can be used in conjunction with WebSpy Sentinel, as a complete Internet management package.

WebSpy Sentinel enables administrators to capture Internet data including email and syslog traffic across an entire network. This data can then be analysed real time using a series of profiles and alerts. Sentinel's web based management utility allows for remote data analysis and administration.

ABOUT LIVINGSTONE GROUP LIMITED

Livingstone Group Limited diversified into information technology in July 1999 by acquiring 100 per cent of the Perth-based information technology company, Netlink (WA) Pty Ltd.

Founded in 1994, Netlink began developing inspection software for the Oil and Gas Industry and was awarded a Western Australian Innovative Support Scheme grant from the Department of Commerce and Trade to help fund initial projects.

Netlink developed WebSpy in 1998 in response to client concerns over network security. When used in security audits for a number of government agencies, WebSpy uncovered a gross misuse of Internet resources, which was costing the government thousands of dollars daily.

In September 1999, Livingstone acquired a 75 per cent interest in London-based Webman Technology Limited for the purpose of sales and distribution of WebSpy in the UK and Europe.

ABOUT NETCOMM LIMITED

NetComm Limited is Australia's leading provider of data communications solutions, including both hardware and software, focused on networks and the Internet.

Publicly listed on the Australian Stock Exchange, NetComm was formerly known as Sirius Technologies, a company which resulted from the 1997 merger of premier modem manufacturers Banksia Technology and NetComm.

Today Sydney-based NetComm delivers a broad spectrum of communications products, including both hardware and software, ranging from Internet-sharing and access devices, through server-style products such as Comservers, NetRamps and NT server communications cards, to network fax software. The company's products are marketed nationwide and internationally by a network of distributors, value-added dealers (VADs) and other equipment manufacturers (OEMs).