

Press Release

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Silicon Valley Security Expert & CEO Says Government Can Secure Internet for \$2 Billion Investment; Calls for Internet ‘Cyber Shield’

SANTA CLARA, Calif., Sept. 18, 2002 – *Ken Xie, founder and CEO of Fortinet, issued the following statement in response to the National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace Report:*

The technology necessary to detect and eliminate viruses and other cyber attacks from all of the Internet’s main US access points can be deployed for an estimated \$2 billion. This technology, which exists today, can enable the entire Internet infrastructure to be scanned for viruses continuously in real time without negatively impacting network performance.

The result of such a federal investment in an omnibus “Cyber Shield” blanket security program will be a stronger, healthier economy – not only for the telecom sector that includes the carriers of Internet traffic and the service providers who enable Internet access, but for all businesses and organizations that rely on the Internet.

The Internet is the primary mechanism by which cyber attacks are launched and spread. If the Internet itself had a mechanism to automatically scan and reject malicious viruses and worms, their ability to spread and cause damage would be severely curtailed or eliminated entirely.

Numerous individuals and companies have been victimized by cyber attacks, suffering unforeseen expenses and losses. Many of those companies successfully attacked were not unprotected, however. In fact, most of these organizations were compromised despite installing conventional antivirus and firewall products on their computer systems.

Our vulnerability to widespread damage from computer viruses and worms is not due primarily to inaction or under-investment in conventional antivirus technologies by individuals and companies. Rather, the problem stems from the fact that today's threats – which are transmitted over widely connected, high-speed networks – are able to spread and do damage at unprecedented rates of speed and replication. In addition, because of the intolerable degradation in network performance caused by conventional antivirus technology, which is strictly software based, many individuals in corporations, government, academia and at home disable their antivirus software altogether.

The Internet and the computer networks connected to it are super highways inherently vulnerable to rapid propagation of cyber attacks. These attacks are able to easily out-manuever conventional antivirus infrastructure, which was developed in an era when floppy disks and "sneakernet" represented the predominant modes of infection. However new technology – such as high-speed, network-based virus scanning using specialized microchip information processors – has improved the performance of antivirus scanning by over 100 times. This makes it possible to stop threats in the outer network itself before they reach individual and corporate computers connected to the Internet.

I encourage the federal government to consider the available options for implementing a comprehensive Cyber Shield strategy that enhances cybersecurity in a manner consistent with the national response to bioterrorism, airline security, and other key elements of our critical national infrastructure.

About Ken Xie

Ken Xie, founder – president and CEO of Fortinet – has over 15 years of technical and management experience in the networking and security industries. Xie was founder, president and CEO of NetScreen (NASDAQ: NSCN), the leading supplier of firewall appliances. He was also founder, president and CEO of Stanford Infosystems, and the lead security architect with Healtheon (now WebMD) and with Philips. Xie has B.S. and M.S. degrees in Computer Engineering from Tsinghua University in China, and earned an M.S. degree while completing work towards a doctorate in Electrical Engineering at

Stanford University.

About Fortinet

Fortinet, the premier provider of network protection systems and the only ICSA-certified ASIC-based antivirus solution, enables enterprises and service providers to improve the security of their networks, reduce misuse and abuse, and better utilize network resources without compromising performance – at dramatically lower costs. Fortinet is privately held and based in Santa Clara, Calif. The company's web address is

<http://www.fortinet.com>.

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