



Information Assurance at the Heart of Homeland Security

“UK Industry working to provide effective Information Assurance”



Government Departments and Agencies and the Emergency Services have needed to take on board ever more difficult challenges with the increased threat from international terrorists and organised crime. In one of the least understood areas there are huge technical problems in assuring the tide of information essential to understanding and countering the threat. Not very many years ago the idea of information sharing and collaborative working between organisations would have foundered because the sensitivity of data could not be properly protected.

Information Assurance (IA) addresses the Confidentiality, Integrity and Availability of data all the way from meeting the demands of the Data Protection Act to protecting information critical to the Nation's security.

So why is IA important?

Confidentiality is vital to avoid criminal targets knowing anything about what evidence is being collected,

the methods used or the identities of the officers on the case. Integrity is necessary to avoid wrong information, misinformation or disinformation entering the system. Availability is critical in real time responses to threats to Homeland Security.

Why is IA challenging?



Firstly, the threat is real: for various motives there are people trying to gain access to sensitive information, to modify data in the system and to take computer and communications systems off-line. We all know that our own

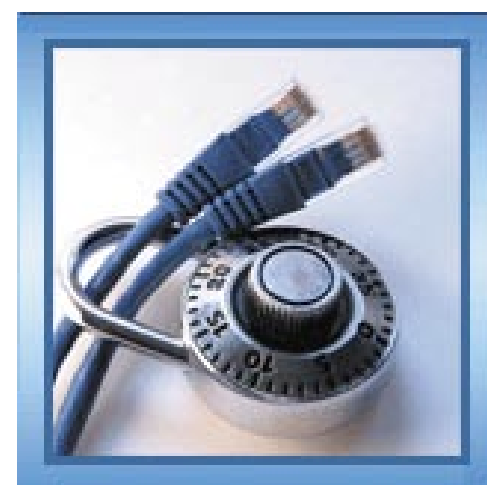
computer is open to continual attack from hackers and credit card thieves. Think how much more severe the threat is when an attacker could be a very skilful terrorist, a hacker seeking fame or a criminal group with almost unlimited resources.

Secondly, the need to share data with others, collaboration between organisations in the UK and abroad, and the sheer volume of data to be processed means that doors that were once permanently shut now have to be opened. Information that was physically secured behind steel doors and only available to a selected few has in some way to be made accessible; organisations previously contained within their own boundaries are now interconnected needing to agree on common standards and policies; officers need to access information from the home, from conferences, on the road and from within other organisation's premises.

Thirdly, with the explosion in communications media and changes to Network Service Provider's methods of working, whereas previously information passed over private networks mainly in the control of the user organisation (or at least under contractual controls), today sensitive information can be communicated over numerous different channels many of which are completely open to the public, may possibly be under management control from abroad and which pass through complex routes that might very well be staged through communications centres anywhere in the world.

What is being done to provide IA to organisations in Homeland Security?

The Information Assurance (IA) Authorities MPIA, CSIA and CESH, among others, are working very hard to develop pragmatic security solutions to meet the expanding and increasingly complex problem. Tremendous work is being done to deliver effective IA tools and techniques for Homeland Security organisations. To achieve their aims the authorities work very closely with industry, encouraging companies to make a commercial investment in developing high quality solutions. At the core of the co-operation between Government and Industry is a group of UK companies specialising in IA products and services. AEP Networks is proud to be among the leading



innovators in Communications and Remote Access security products that provide the level of security assurance and functionality necessary to meet IA standards and policies for Homeland Security systems.



About AEP Networks

AEP Networks offers a comprehensive Policy Networking solution that provides complete security starting at the endpoints and working throughout a network – from the edge to the core. AEP's integrated portfolio of security products includes network admission control enforcement points, identity-based application security gateways, SSL VPNs, high assurance IPsec-based VPN encryptors, and hardware security modules for key management. Our products address the most demanding security requirements of public-sector organisations and commercial enterprises internationally. The parent company is headquartered in Somerset, New Jersey, with the UK Company AEP Networks Ltd based in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

Steve Lewis
V-P Business Development
AEP Networks

Tel: 0788 783 4016
Email: stephen.lewis@aepnetworks.com