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**Corporate America Has Civic Responsibility to Protect Online Resources**

***Business Owners Must Be Vigilant Against Cyber Crime, Urges Pearl Software***

PHILADELPHIA (July 10, 2002) --- With the growing number of terrorist threat advisories—most recently for the Fourth of July—one active business leader urges corporate America to “take a proactive role” by joining the government in its fight against terrorism.

David Fertell, CEO of Philadelphia based software development company, Pearl Software, says most businesses can do significantly more to help guard themselves and the nation against security threats. “To combat cyber-terrorism effectively, government and the private sector must form an active partnership,” advises Fertell. “Pearl Software develops software tools for corporations to manage Internet use and simultaneously facilitate the government’s efforts in fighting online terrorism.”

According to a survey of information technology professionals released last month by the Business Software Alliance, forty-nine percent of IT professionals think it is likely the government will be hit by a major cyber attack in the next 12 months. The study, conducted by Ipsos Public Affairs, notes that of those IT professionals most expert on security issues (those responsible for their company’s computer and Internet security), 59 percent think a major attack against the government is likely in the next year.

Pearl Software has already stepped up to the challenge. By working with law enforcement agencies, Pearl Software has used its flagship software product, Pearl Echo<sup>®</sup>, to monitor individuals who have been convicted of computer related crimes. The latest version of Pearl Echo, released this month, includes capabilities that legally validate captured information and verify user and machine identities to better assist law enforcement.

Pearl Echo can be used to monitor the Web surfing, e-mail, newsgroup postings, chat, file transfers and instant messaging that occurs on government or corporate PCs—providing a full audit

trail of all Internet activity. Pearl Echo can also be set to monitor keywords and phrases to protect privacy and the dissemination of personal information. "If criminals use online means to break the law or transmit communications about criminal activities, it is highly likely that Pearl Echo will catch it," says Fertell.

Cyber-terrorism is only one of the many threats facing organizations today. Additional crimes include the dissemination of child pornography, theft of proprietary information and financial fraud. According to the 2002 Computer Crime and Security Survey conducted by the Computer Security Institute and the FBI, seventy-eight percent of respondents (primarily large corporations and government agencies) detected employee abuse of Internet access privileges within the last twelve months. And eighty percent acknowledged financial losses due to computer breaches.

"Post 9/11, our nation's biggest obstacle is public complacency. Companies must be vigilant," states Fertell. "Pearl's software tools reveal what cyber criminals are doing while using corporate networks. This is just one example of a new technology that can help companies play an active role in fighting cyber-crime."

David Fertell and Joe Field founded Pearl Software Inc. in 1996. The company provides network-enabled products to the growing Internet user community. Pearl Software's key, patent-pending products include Pearl Echo and Cyber Snoop® Desktop, which allows parents and educators to monitor children's online activity. The company also offers browser control software, TakeMeHome™, and is commercializing an emergency chat response system, Chat911™. More information about Pearl Software is available at [www.pearlsw.com](http://www.pearlsw.com)

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