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New Pearl Echo® 5.0 Clamps Down on Workplace Instant Messaging

Pearl Echo Adds Support for Yahoo! Messenger & MSN Messenger

Philadelphia, PA — August 13, 2002 — Pearl Software today announced that its Pearl Echo® Global Internet Management Software, an application that allows companies to manage Internet use by employees, now offers wider support for monitoring Instant Messaging (IM). Workplace use of IM technology is on the rise, increasing corporate vulnerability to hackers and spawning abuse by employees who use IM for personal chat, rather than business related conversations.

Pearl Echo manages most forms of 'Net communications including web browsing, file transfers (FTP), news group postings, chat (IRC), email, web-chat, web-mail, and now the most popular forms of IM including ICQ, AOL Instant Messenger (AIM), Yahoo! Messenger and MSN Messenger. Pearl Echo's broad support of instant messaging protocols is helpful to companies where workplace messaging is increasing. Many employees mistakenly believe that because chat and IM bypass corporate servers, messages cannot be tracked. For this reason, instant messaging has become the medium of choice for those trying to send unauthorized personal communications or proprietary information outside the company.

According to David Fertell, co-founder and CEO of Pearl Software, "Some people view monitoring IM traffic as draconian, however, companies have been monitoring email for years." Companies are turning to software solutions like Pearl Echo to maintain a level of control over their business communications. Some companies, such as insurance firms or financial services companies, monitor Internet traffic for legal reasons or to ensure compliance with federal and state regulations.

In addition, Pearl Echo 5.0 can now monitor a computer according to its assigned name, a user name, as well as the computer's unique hardware serial number. This has strong implications for law enforcement as more companies begin to experiment with Internet monitoring software like

Pearl Echo to monitor suspected cyber criminals. Pearl Software's identification features alone could greatly assist corporations in defending themselves against wrongful termination proceedings or to assist in prosecuting suspected cyber criminals.

"Analyzing the online productivity of employees has never been easier," said Fertell. "Pearl Echo's new report manager can now be run as a standalone application. This means authorized users can run reports on all captured data and view the reports from any point on the network using a web browser." All managed activity, including the content of email, news, chat and IM can be stored and analyzed. Pearl Echo includes standard reports and also allows users to save customized reports that are created using filters and queries.

Pearl Echo supports several of the latest Windows® 2000 and XP features including remote installation using the Windows Installer service, Windows XP Fast User Switching and remote administration through Windows Remote Desktop. Pearl Echo also seamlessly integrates into a Windows Terminal Server Environment. Pearl Echo continues to push the capabilities of its GIM (Global Internet Management) technology, enabling management of local or remote computers regardless of where or how users connect to the Internet.

Pearl Echo 5.0 retails at $79 per copy with licensing and volume discounts based on the number of workstations to be managed. A free, five-user trial version of Pearl Echo is available at www.PearlEcho.com. Copies of the software can be purchased from a Pearl Software Preferred Partner at 800 PEARL-96.

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™.

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