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Full text:

InfoWatch Malaysia Introduces DLP To Help Prevent Sensitive Data Leakage

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 14 (Bernama) — According to Wikipedia, a hacker is someone who seeks and exploits weaknesses in a computer system or network.

Hackers it explained, do this for a multitude of reasons, such as profit, protest or challenge. But the fact remains that the end result of their malicious action is that it inflicts significant loss on people and organisations.

When it comes to organisations though, few realise that the greatest threat to their security in whatever form, comes actually from internally or via employees, as compared to externally.

In this regard, IT security firm, Infowatch Malaysia, is offering organisations "peace of mind" through its data leakage protection (DLP)system which helps monitor the movement of sensitive data.

Sales account manager Renganathan KT Cumarasamy said according to research conducted by the company globally, 93 per cent of data leakage reported, was initiated from inside an organisation.

"A total of 1.8 billion pieces of data globally was stolen in the first half of this year and involving a loss of US$3.6 billion.

"Employees have access to sensitive data and know where it's being stored, how it's being done and how sensitive the information is, as compared to outsiders.

"The increase in data leakage of late was driven by profit derived from the selling of sensitive data as well as sabotage," he told Bernama.

He said the DLP protects the whole network in a corporation from unauthorised access of information.

"DLP monitors traffic by screening all the information that goes through the network into the gateway (internet) for sensitive data.

"When it finds sensitive data, it is authorised to block, quarantine it or inform the system administrator of the person attempting to do so and the terminal used to conduct the act," he added.

 According to Renganathan, even an attempt to bring out partial sensitive data or send it out using email apart from that of the company, such as Gmail and Yahoo, would be recognised.

He said while external threats received more attention from organisations or businesses and was curtailed by various security software or firewalls, the internal threat awareness is still lacking in Malaysia.

He also highlighted that there was no specific Act to protect the leakage of sensitive data in the country – except for financial data protection regulation by Malaysia's Central Bank – whereas, such action can result in heavy fines in developed countries.

Renganathan said the parent company of Infowatch Malaysia, Infowatch, was chaired by Natalya Kaspersky, the co-founder of personal computer security service provider Kaspersky Lab, and has been concentrating on DLP development for the last decade.

Its Moscow office has close to about 500 staff, of which 65 per cent are in research and development (R&D). Another research centre in Germany has about 300 staff and allocates 70 per cent of its human resources to R&D.

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