

Daily News

BUSINESS

Information & Communication Technology

Symantec to provide internet security to Lankan market

CNT International (CNT), a distributor of IT products in Sri Lanka, in partnership with Symantec Corp. (Nasdaq: SYMC), a world leader in Internet Security will distribute its enterprise and retail products and appliances in the Sri Lankan market. This was made known at a media conference held at The Colombo Plaza Hotel on Tuesday.

Symantec's Internet Security Product offerings will include firewall security, vulnerability management, intrusion prevention, content filtering, virus protection, e-mail filtering and remote management technologies, among others. Both Enterprises and Home PC owners can avail themselves of these products at any of the CNT identified outlets and appointed re-sellers.

Country Manager, Symantec India, Joy Ghosh said that Symantec is excited to be associated with CNT International. We see Sri Lanka as an emerging market for Internet Security products, solutions and services. This partnership will further spearhead Symantec's strong market penetration in this region," he said.

CNT International's Assistant General Manager Sanjaya Padmaperuma said that "we are committed to bringing the latest products and services to the Sri Lankan market and are pleased to collaborate with the global leaders in Internet security. Symantec will provide our customers with leading edge security products available to protect their data from various Internet threats".

Symantec, provides a broad range of content and network security software and appliance solutions to individuals, enterprises and service providers. CNTI has expanded its operations to the Indian sub-continent and concentrates on providing IT expertise in the areas of Knowledge Management, Internet Security and Document Management.



A young Singaporean man stands in front of a poster of an information technologies (IT) institute in Singapore, April 29 2003. Singapore's industrial output rose 6.5 percent on the year in March on strong production in the pharmaceuticals sector to meet rising global demand. AFP

Clarion in secure data

Clarion International Limited a company distributing power management with state-of-the-art technology is in the market to provide a cost effective solution to secure data and as well as expensive, sensitive equipment. They have provided energy solutions for over 500 leading companies including Unilever, US Embassy, NDB Bank, Kandallama Hotel, Smart Shirts, Ansel Lanka, Stretchline, Sampath Bank, Aitken Spence, Ceylon Cold Stores, Plantation Companies and hundreds of other prestigious organizations.

They introduce protectors specially designed for each type of power line, each type of connection and even each type of equipment in Data Networks. These

special Data Network Surge Protectors cover the main data transmission line configurations, multi-line data installation configurations and data processing equipment. They also introduce special Inline Surge Protectors (ISP) specially for computers, fax machines and other sensitive equipment which are easy to use, maintenance free, compact, noise free operation, automatic reset after a transient has passed, stylish and global compatible.

Some of the advantages of ISP are, low cost of protector and zero installation cost without specialist technicians, thermal overload protection to reduce electric shock or fire during sustained overvoltage, automatic reset after each transient surge.

National dialogue and consensus key factors

High Level forum to facilitate e-government vision

National e-government conferences scheduled to commence on May 5th will unveil the government's e-government strategy and to create awareness among the legislators and senior public officials of the importance of e-government in delivering citizen services. Another key objective is the development of already created action plans in this regard.

E-government defined as a "mere delivery of government services and information to the public using electronic means", allows direct participation of constituents in government activities.

It changes how citizens relate to governments as much as it changes how citizens relate to each other. e-government is also targeted to bring forth new concepts of citizenship, both in terms of needs and responsibilities. E-governance allows for citizens to communicate with government, participate in the government's policy-making, while facilitating communication between citizens themselves.

The introduction of e-governance is a key to making information technology (IT) relevant to ordinary citizens across the country especially among the poorer sections of society where the digital divide is a significantly high. It furthermore allows ordinary citizens to constantly interface with the government at both local and central levels on various matters.

It has also been decided to establish an ongoing high-level forum on e-government to facilitate a national dialogue and con-

sensus on an e-government vision. This will also support the establishment of institutional frameworks for planning and implementing e-government initiatives.

The forum will also facilitate continuous input and feedback from those who make use of government services.

It has also been planned to create a business-friendly policy environment, and conduct highlevel training and development for government leaders to ensure they can lead the change management process involved in making effective use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) in government, and to help them create the necessary enabling environment for a competitive ICT industry.

The government, private sector and other stakeholders in the nation's development share a belief that ICT is a foundation for the equitable distribution of opportunity and knowledge within societies and communities, and a key factor in the competitive advantage of nations.

This belief has resulted in a shared vision for an e-Sri Lanka - a vision that will take the dividends of ICT to every village, citizen, and every business, and, transform the way government works.

This vision is already up and running in the daily operations of the Sri Lanka Government Press, the Department of Immigration and Emigration, the Ministry of Public Administra-

tion and the Sri Lanka Police Department where ICT has been successfully harnessed to offer a better, speedier and quality service to the citizens of Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka plans to use ICT to improve the delivery of public services, knowledge and education to the people, empower civil servants with information and communication tools, facilitate co-ordination across government agencies, make government accessible and accountable to the average citizen, improve competition and transparency in public procurement, and reduce transaction costs to businesses.

The government has also set its eyes on the ambitious goal of achieving for Sri Lanka, the status of a "regional ICT enabled commercial hub for South Asia" by harnessing top-end latent professional talent combined with a sound ICT infrastructure for the delivery of commerce and services for businesses online.

With Sri Lanka having one of the highest literacy rates in the world, impressive IT professionals in the private and government sectors, the vision for a totally e-Sri Lanka becomes a reality only with the support and engagement of the legislature, the executive, public sector, private sector, the academia, donor community, NGOs and the people of Sri Lanka as willing partners to achieve the critical milestones during the five years ahead. The Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe will open this e-government conference.