

Securing documents for government

James Oon, General Manager with RadianTrust shares his insights to optical security for print. Interview: Gerald Wang.

“In the context of security markets, IT reaches out to a myriad of specialisations and fields of continuous upgrades and innovations to deal with increasingly challenging threats. Taking a look at the entire securities landscape, we can confidently state our proficiencies and primary focus on optical document security solutions that can help to close gaps in the controlled document environments,” asserts James Oon, General Manager with RadianTrust. “Using patented technologies in optical watermarking, we have helped governments prevent unauthorised duplication of their important documents. Additionally, with technologies like Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) and 2D barcodes, we can ensure the data integrity of documents.”

People, processes

In securities, one does not necessarily deal with only the specifics, but also the security infrastructure as a whole. People and processes play an important part in the ideal holistic approach to securities, notes Oon. People are still the ones who access and do the checking of documents. There comes a possibility that important documents are forged, and this becomes a threat to the government.

“Enterprise Digital Rights Management (E-DRM) focuses on security and encryption as a means of solving the issue of unauthorised copying. It also covers description, identification,



James Oon, General Manager of RadianTrust

trading, protection, monitoring, tracking and rights management over tangible and intangible assets. However, when a document is printed, the entire system is compromised,” reveals Oon. “It is difficult to determine the ideal IT infrastructure for governments. Every department and agency requires different forms of security and processes. You need to determine what possible threats will happen and police the type of controls used. There has to be a layered approach to security threats. There is no single method or solution control. Ideal security is a multi-layered control.”

In government agencies, there are always standard routines that one has to go through to process documents. This process of reporting ensures that the levels of authorisation are not skipped. Thus, documents have to be thoroughly prepared and secured to ensure efficient document management.

Mobility measures

However, given the demand for increased mobility by government officials, there comes a need for document accessibility outside

the government organization. RadianTrust’s patented optical watermarking solution features the use of a normal laser printer to print the watermark on the paper itself and when a copy of the document is made, the mark on the paper disappears in the copied version. Governments can now control the number of copies that are printed both inside and outside of its organization.

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“There will come a point where there’s no wireless access, and neither any GPRS signals to be able to authenticate and verify the essential documents,” divulges Oon. “To counter this, we have installed programmes into mobile phones and PDAs for verification. Using our 2D barcode technology, the documents are encrypted through PKI technologies and store up to 4k worth of data. Without access to private key, it is very hard to change the data. The content of the document can be captured and shown by scanning the 2D barcode over the devices.”

Security is not a one-time investment. It is a process. Governments have to look at their crisis analysis, understand the different tangible values of security needs and make the appropriate investment into what is needed.

Document retirement remains the last vital security of the print world. “You can somewhat control who can access a document, for how long, in what manner can he or she can access it. With our system, you can tie the document retirement period with the code and the content, and when you try to verify it after its expiry date, the programme will say that the document is no longer valid,” concludes Oon.

Know More:

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