KASPERSKY LAB RELEASES SECURITY FOR WINDOWS SERVER APPLICATION

DUBAI: Kaspersky Lab has unveiled new version Kaspersky Security for Windows Server application, which has been developed specifically for high performance corporate servers. The new Kaspersky Security for Windows Server provides cost-effective, reliable, scalable security for shared file storage, with minimal impact on resources. The solution's Anti-Cryptor technologyis designed to protect IT infrastructure from cryptomalware.

As the complexity of corporate IT infrastructure increases, the need for reliable, multi-layered cyber security, which protects business servers, also grows. A comprehensive approach to security is becoming essential for businesses, as a single infected file anywhere in a corporate network can spread rapidly, causing untold damage across the whole network. Cryptomalware, for example, can infiltrate and encrypt an entire network - including its backups - within minutes. This can bring entire business operations to a halt and leave a business without the ability to restore its critical data.

Appropriate dedicated server security helps to protect critical corporate data and eliminate the danger of malware penetrating the backup copies of files. With this in mind, Kaspersky Lab has updated its security application for servers; using all of its expertise and intelligence to provide customers with reliable security against the latest malware threats.

The solution's new features make the security of corporate servers even more flexible, and easy to manage.

The solution identifies and scans critical areas of a business's corporate servers for malware, helping to strengthen those areas of the operating system that are most exposed to infection. For example, scanning Autorun files can help prevent malware from launching during system startup and can detect any hidden processes. To help protect businesses from unknown and advanced threats, Kaspersky Security for Windows Server includes Application Startup Control. This provides customers with unprecedented security, using configured rules to allow or block the startup of executable files, scripts, and installation packages, or the loading of program modules onto servers. The solution leverages Anti-Cryptor technology, which is unparalleled on the market and based on a patented Kaspersky Lab algorithm. This uses behaviour analysis to detect and protect shared folders from encryption activity-preventing a business from being locked out of its own files, and being forced to pay a ransom for their 'release'.

Another technology uses by the solution is malicious host blocker. If any malicious activity is detected through Real-Time File Protection or Anti-Cryptor activities, access to shared network folders is immediately restricted to a secure server, protecting files from damage by any malicious third parties.

A Kaspersky Lab Head of Endpoint Product Management, Konstantin Voronkov, commented, "Cryptomalware is a big issue in the business world. Today, many cybercriminals are using it to earn so called "fast money", because it's easy to implement and commit a cybercrime like this. No business wants to lose its sensitive data, so a lot of victims end up paying for their data to be decrypted straight away. But cybercriminals don't always stick to their side of the bargain and decrypt data after payment. That's why it's important that businesses use appropriate security solutions, back up sensitive data and increase security awareness among employees, instead leaving themselves exposed to this unfair game. You will be safer with a proactive security strategy in place, than if your business is being held at ransom." The application available as a part of Kaspersky Security for File Server, Kaspersky Endpoint Security for Business and Kaspersky Security for Storage.

Hannes Liebe, Chief Operating Officer, SAP MENA.

Hany Hussein, Regional VP, Channels & Alliances Middle East

HUAWEI, SAP AND SEIDOR ANNOUNCE JOINT INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP

DUBAI: Huawei, a global information and communications technology provider announced a regional joint innovation partnership with global enterprise software provider SAP and Seidor MENA, a systems integrator that provides ICT consulting services.

Huawei's collaboration with SAP and Seidor MENA will focus on establishing a technical alliance to provide a comprehensive Internet of Things (IoT) and Big Data solution that will digitally transform the region's enterprises, offering more agility and allowing them to run more efficiently.

The development of the IoT industry, including the utilization of Big Data, is widely considered to be the fourth industrial revolution, following those driven by the steam engine, electricity and information technology. IoT solutions have the power to address world challenges for everything from connected transportation and emergency services to energy management, by seamlessly connecting physical objects into the information network.

The synergy between the three ICT companies will allow customers to benefit from Huawei's expertise in providing hardware and infrastructure solutions, SAP's wide application software portfolio and Seidor Mena's technology consulting services. The digital transformation event was recently hosted by Huawei, SAP and Seidor MENA, under the theme 'The Internet of Things Meets Big Data'. The event demonstrated the three ICT leader's innovation partnership through a series of sessions alongside success stories that will be presented by an end-user. The sessions addressed the role that the partnership will play to drive the IoT era using predictive analytics, reliable robust hardware infrastructure and strong consulting capabilities to help implement digital transformation.

CAPABILITIES

At the event Huawei, SAP and Seidor MENA have organized a series of program sessions that will demonstrate how each of their strengths and capabilities add significant value when combined, allowing them to offer a unique holistic IoT and Big Data solution for businesses in the Middle East.

Hany Hussein, Vice President of Partners & Alliances from Huawei Middle East said: "Huawei values our new win-win partnership with SAP and Seidor MENA, which allows us to offer a truly unique IoT and Big Data for regional enterprises looking to streamline their business processes. With our expertise in ICT hardware infrastructure, Huawei is committed to collaborating with SAP's application software solutions and Seidor MENA's consulting services so that we can market our combined capabilities to develop differentiated IoT and Big Data solutions. This innova-

Ignacio Ruiz de Eguilaz, Managing Director at Seidor MENA.

tion partnership is designed to help local enterprises across different sectors deploy new technologies easily and quickly, making them more efficient and allow them to save bottom line costs."

The joint innovation partnership follows previous successful collaborations between Huawei and SAP, which saw the companies integrate Huawei's ICT infrastructure and connectivity solutions with SAP HANA Cloud Platform, SAP applications and analytic tools. This initial partnership focused on developing agile manufacturing, smart energy and transportation solutions with SAP HANA Cloud Platform.

SIMPLIFY BUSINESSES

Hannes Liebe, Chief Operating Officer, SAP MENA, said: "With the rise in Smart Cities and hyper-connected mega-events, the Middle East region is posting strong demand for cloud-based IoT solutions that can harness the power of real-time insights to simplify business operations, drive government innovation, and transform daily lives. By combining Huawei's ICT infrastructure, the SAP HANA platform for real-time Big Data analytics, and Seidor's regional expertise in systems integration, we are joining forces to deliver global best practices to support the Middle East's digital transformation."

System's Integrator, Seidor MENA, provides SAP's comprehensive next generation platform technology services covering consulting, infrastructure, implementation, development, and maintenance of applications. Its SAP practice is pillared by twenty-five industry solutions tailored for the small and medium business (SME) sector in the Middle East.

"We are thrilled to team up with Huawei and SAP to simplify our clients business and keep them a step ahead from competition. This partnership will add very strong value proposition in digital transformation and making business run simple," said Ignacio Ruiz de Eguilaz, Managing Director Seidor MENA.

AFFORDABLE MODEL 3 IS TESLA'S BIGGEST TEST YET

DETROIT: The promise of an affordable electric car from Tesla Motors had hundreds of people lining up to reserve one. Tesla planned to unveil its Model 3 Thursday night at its Los Angeles design studio. It doesn't go on sale until late 2017, but potential buyers could reserve one with a $1,000 deposit at Tesla stores starting Thursday morning.

Long lines, reminiscent of the crowds at Apple stores for early models of the iPhone, were reported from Hong Kong to Austin, Texas, to Washington. At a starting price of $35,000 - before federal and state government incentives - the Model 3 is less than half the cost of Tesla's previous models. The car is expected to have a range of at least 200 miles when fully charged, about double what drivers get from competitors in its price range, such as the Nissan Leaf and BMW i3.

Robin Santucci got the sixth spot in line when he arrived at the Santa Monica, California, Tesla store at 3:45 a.m. Thursday. By 9 a.m., he estimated there were 200 people in line.

Santucci has admired Tesla for years. When he got his current car, an electric Fiat 500, he made sure the lease would run out at the end of 2017 so his next car could be the Model 3.

"The design of every other car they've put out is beautiful," said Santucci, who works in digital advertising and lives in West Hollywood. Santucci added that he didn't want to wait too long to order a car because the federal tax credit of $7,500 will sunset once Tesla sells 200,000 vehicles in the U.S. That's likely several years away, but customers like Santucci want to be sure they qualify.

The Model 3 is the most serious test yet of 13-year-old Tesla's ability to go from a niche player to a full-fledged automaker. It could be the car that finally makes electrics mainstream - or customers could be scared off by Tesla's limited number of stores, chargers and service centers. Either way, the Model 3 is already changing the industry, spurring competitors to speed development of electric cars and improve their battery range.

Tesla didn't release details about the car before the event. Right now,

HAWTHORNE: People sit at computers where they can reserve one of the cars before Tesla Motors unveils the Model 3 at the Tesla Motors design studio, in Hawthorne, Calif. —AP

Tesla sells two vehicles: The Model S sedan, which starts at $71,000, and the Model X SUV, which starts around $80,000. But a lower-priced car has been a longtime goal of Tesla CEO Elon Musk. In a 2006 blog post, Musk said Tesla planned to build "a wide range of models, including affordably priced family cars" in order to speed the world toward a solar-powered future.

The Model 3 puts Tesla within reach of millions more customers. Last year, only 2.1 percent of new cars purchased in the US cost $75,000 or more, but 35 percent - or 5.5 million - cost $35,000 or more, according to TrueCar. The Model 3 is a critical part of the money-losing automaker's plan to increase sales from around 85,000 this year to 500,000 by 2020.

But Tesla faces several hurdles. US buyers remain skeptical of electric cars, and low gas prices haven't helped already anemic sales. Sales of new electric vehicles grew 6 percent in the US last year, but they still remain less than 1 percent of the overall vehicle market, according to IHS Automotive. Tesla also faces growing competition from big, deep-pocketed rivals like General Motors Co.

Here's what we know about the Model 3:
WHEN WILL IT GO ON SALE?

Tesla has said it expects to start Model 3 production at its Fremont, California, factory at the end of 2017. But the company has a history of delays. The Model X, which went on sale last fall, was initially due to go on sale in early 2014. Musk said last month that the Model 3, unlike the Model X, is designed for "ease of manufacturing." Still, some analysts are doubtful. Morgan Stanley auto analyst Adam Jonas thinks Tesla won't start building the Model 3 until the end of 2018.

WHO ARE ITS COMPETITORS?

General Motors is set to start selling the Chevrolet Bolt electric car at the end of this year, a full year before the Model 3. The Bolt will have a similar price tag and a 200-mile range. Hyundai's Ioniq, which has a 110-mile electric range and could match Tesla on price, goes on sale this fall. Audi will follow with an electric SUV in 2018. Musk said last month he's not worried. He thinks the Model 3 will compete most directly with small luxury cars like the Audi A4 and the BMW 3 Series.

HOW DID TESLA MAKE THE MODEL 3 LESS EXPENSIVE?

Cheaper batteries. Tesla previously assembled its battery packs with battery cells made in Japan by Panasonic Corp. But Tesla and Panasonic are building a massive, $5 billion factory in Nevada where it will supply batteries for the Model 3. Tesla says the scale of the factory will lower the cost of its battery packs by 30 percent. —AP

SOLAR FARM DEVELOPERS TARGET NEW YORK WITH LEASE OFFERS

ALBANY: Less than a year after New York banned fracking, dashing the hopes of farmers who had hoped to reap royalties from natural gas leases, the commercial solar industry is courting landowners for energy production.

Buoyed by Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo's renewable energy plan and the extension of the 30 percent federal tax credit in December, solar companies in recent months have blanketed rural areas with mailings seeking leases on farmland for solar arrays spanning 20 acres or more. While some farmers welcome the opportunity to earn up to $2,000 an acre annually for the next 20 years or so, some agricultural advisers, community leaders and lawyers are urging caution.

"These are complex business transactions masquerading as lottery tickets," said Chris Denton, a southern New York lawyer who helped landowner groups negotiate oil and gas leases during the Marcellus Shale gas rush in 2009. "There are unexamined risks and environmental impacts. That's why landowners are banding together again to formulate leases that will protect their interests."

Manna Jo Greene, environmental director for the nonprofit Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, said the developing solar boom is welcome but only if it's done right. While a solar development is a beneficial use for a former landfill, it might not be appropriate for prime farmland, she said. And there are many questions concerning zoning, agricultural tax benefits, effects on farm operations, and the eventual decommissioning and disposal of the solar components.

"A lease promising $20,000 or $40,000 a year is tempting to farmers who are struggling," said Greene, who is also an Ulster County legislator. "But we're trying to get the word out to be cautious and not let a developer strip them of their property rights."

The Cuomo administration's initiatives aimed at promoting local renewable energy generation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and generating 50 percent of the state's energy from renewable sources by 2030 are bringing solar developers to the state. One company, Santa Monica, California-based Cypress Creek

CATAWBA COUNTY: This Sept 30, 2015 aerial photo provided by Cypress Creek Renewables, shows a commercial solar farm built on farmland by Cypress Creek Renewables in Catawba County, NC. Less than a year after New York banned fracking, dashing the hopes of farmers who had hoped to reap royalties from natural gas leases, the commercial solar industry is courting landowners for energy production. —AP

Renewables, has mass-mailed lease offers to hundreds of upstate landowners.

"We expect to have operational projects in every utility load distribution zone in New York by the end of 2017," said Cypress Creek spokesman Jeff McKay. The company already has operational sites in North and South Carolina, Texas, Indiana, Missouri, Minnesota, Oregon and Georgia, he said.

SOLAR INDUSTRY GROWING

"New York's solar industry is growing at unprecedented levels," said Department of Public Service spokesman Jon Sorensen. He said that the state doesn't have figures on solar leasing activity but that energy and agriculture agencies are developing information to help farmers make leasing decisions.

"It's happening so fast, it's caught people off-guard," said Elizabeth Higgins of the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Ulster County.

Several New York towns, including the Orange County town of Goshen, have enacted moratoriums on new solar farms to allow officials to consider any zoning changes that might be necessary.

A similar solar boom has been going on in North Carolina for about four years, driven by state-mandated rules for utility power purchases that favor solar developers. At least 200 commercial solar farms have been established in North Carolina, mostly around 5 megawatts but ranging to up to 80 megawatts, said Tommy Cleveland of North Carolina State University's Clean Energy Technology Center.

Objections similar to those being raised in New York were raised in North Carolina. "There has been concern about taking prime land out of farm production," he said. "In the last two years, we've installed more than any state other than California, and it's still only a tenth of a percent of our farmland."

For some farmers in New York, the leases could mean salvation. Marginal land could become productive, and prime cropland could produce income without labor and other costs during a 20-year lease, with the potential to one day return to crop production. —AP