



Media Contacts:

Dagmar Schulz
dschulz@kontaktaufnahme.net
Phone + 49 511 353 24 692
Cell + 49 173 36 22 390

Peter Cox
peter@um-labs.com
Phone: +44 20 3201 3200

UM Labs Ltd: Delivering Security for VoIP and Unified Messaging

London February, 11th 2008, a new company, UM Labs Ltd, has been created to address the growing need for effective security for Voice over IP (VoIP) and Unified Messaging (UM) Security. The founders of UM Labs are experienced Internet Security professionals, Peter Cox and Stuart Morrice.

The adoption rate of VoIP and UM is growing; fuelled by the promise of greater flexibility, integration with other applications and more cost effective service delivery. However, concerns over the security of these applications are preventing many organisations from fully adopting the service and failing to realise the potential benefits. These concerns are founded partly on confusion over the scope and types of security threat that face the applications and partly over a lack of easy to use security products.

UM Labs was founded to address this problem by providing a range of easy to use, cost effective products that deliver effective security for VoIP and UM to users ranging from small business and branch offices through large enterprises to service providers and telco operators.

Peter Cox CEO of UM Labs commented, "The security model applied to many VoIP networks is one of isolation, physically separating Voice and Data or using VLANs to keep them apart and preventing any external IP connections. Unfortunately separation sacrifices many of the benefits of VoIP and makes Unified Messaging and the integration of all communication applications impossible."

"Until this problem is addressed, VoIP networks will not deliver their full set of potential benefits. The first step to solving this problem is to recognise that VoIP is a specialist application requiring a specialist approach to security. Standard Firewall products do not do a good job at securing VoIP. At best they complicate the deployment of VoIP at worst they present so many barriers that it is virtually impossible to deliver a VoIP service without compromising the security of other applications."

"It should come as no surprise that the best way to secure applications such as VoIP and UM is to deploy a specialist security gateway. Both web and email have spawned their own security markets, in each market there are a number of products delivering security controls that standard Firewalls cannot deliver."

The goal of UM Labs is to enable each VoIP network to delivery its full potential set of benefits by providing products that implement a more realistic security model. This security model recognises that VoIP networks need external connections to enable SIP trunk connections and to safely extend the service to home workers, roaming uses and branch offices.

To reach this goal, UM Labs will launch a range of security gateways through 2008. Each product will secure VoIP applications based on the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) and other UM applications. The first release is designed to secure remote VoIP connections to home users and roaming workers and to provide security for SIP trunk services. Security controls include firewall grade IP level security coupled with application specific security controls designed to combat threats such as VoIP call hijacking, call flooding and unauthorised call monitoring. The latter is provided by VoIP encryption services using the industry standards TLS and SRTP with a choice of key management algorithms to support the widest possible range of hardware and software phones. Supported key management algorithms include Phil Zimmermann's ZRTP and SDES as used by Snom and other phone manufacturers.

About UM Labs Ltd

UM Labs delivers a range of application level security gateways for VoIP and Unified Messaging. These gateways are designed to provide security controls targeted at the range of threats that affect VoIP and UM applications, exceeding the capabilities of standard Firewalls. UM Labs product range also provides a realistic and cost effective alternative to Session Border Controllers (SBC).

UM Labs founders include Peter Cox, formerly co-founder of Internet Security Specialist Borderware Technologies. While at Borderware, Peter contributed to the design of the Borderware Firewall Server, one of the first commercial Firewall products and to the company's MXtreme product, an application level security gateway for email.

For the past two years, Peter has focused on researching VoIP security issues and has written a number of white papers including a survey of the threats facing VoIP applications and a discussion on the ability of standard firewalls to address all of these threats.

For more information, please visit our website, <http://www.um-labs.com/>

CeBIT Hanover, Germany, March 4-9 2008: Visit us in Hall 13, booth D26, snom technology AG, to arrange a meeting please contact Dagmar Schulz, dschulz@kontaktaufnahme.net.