



## NEWS RELEASE

### Majority of Canadian Companies Say Confidential and Private Data is at Risk

*Poll shows that while 83% of Canadians are concerned about the privacy of information stored in online databases, 55% of companies say their data is at risk*

**TORONTO – November 22, 2005** – While 98% of Canadian business leaders and decision makers believe it is important for a company to ensure that any sensitive data is protected against improper activity, the facts tell a different story.

#### **Online Intrusion and Identity Theft**

A recent Fusepoint/Sun Microsystems/Leger Marketing survey reveals that 55% of Canadian companies say that their confidential and private data is at risk of an attack, despite the fact that most consumers (58%) would immediately terminate their relationship with a company that compromised their personal information.

Poll results also showed that more than one in 10 Canadian consumers (14%) believe they have already been a victim of identity theft with 38% of respondents saying they know someone who has been a victim of identity theft. In addition, 74% of consumers believe that everybody – including those possessing advanced technological know-how – is at equal risk of identity theft.

“With the exponential growth in the volume and sophistication of online threats, executives must heed their customers’ calls to take the necessary steps to protect their data and infrastructure from being compromised,” said George Kerns, President and CEO, Fusepoint Managed Services. “This is not a simple business issue. It’s a fundamental matter of trust.”

“Smart enterprises know security and privacy are good for business, and yet many companies in Canada and around the world don’t take this message to heart,” said Andy Canham, president of Sun Microsystems of Canada Inc. “Any business that values their customer base will invest in systemic security practices that ensure they manage security risks, and meet compliance regulations, as well as achieve business growth goals.”

#### **The Origin of Attacks**

Somewhat surprisingly, the findings showed that business leaders believed the greatest threat to their data security would not come from a malicious external attack, but rather from the hands of an uninformed employee. The research showed that 46% percent of respondents said that employees who accidentally download security-compromising viruses, spyware or adware pose a greater data security risk to a company than external agents like hackers, cited next at 40%. Another 14% believed the greatest threat would come from disgruntled employees who gain unauthorized access to information.

"The reality is that many businesses are operating under a false sense of security, as all too often we see corporate networks become compromised by an 'igloo effect' of sorts," said Dr. Clemens Martin, University of Ontario Institute of Technology. "All it takes is one ill-advised employee to unknowingly compromise a network's hard outer shell, and all other security measures in place could simply melt away."

For additional survey results, please see separate Facts and Stats at-a-Glance.

#### **About the Survey**

The online survey was conducted for Fusepoint Managed Services and Sun Microsystems of Canada Inc. by Leger Marketing, the sole Canadian representative of the Gallup International Association, between Oct. 28 and Nov. 9, 2005, with a representative sample of 565 Canadians considered to be senior-level business decision makers. The survey is considered accurate within +/- 4.1 percent, 19 times out of 20.

#### **About Fusepoint Managed Services**

Fusepoint Managed Services is the leading provider of managed IT services and infrastructure for companies running mission-critical applications. Fusepoint's technical experts and world-class data centres ensure the continuity of our clients' businesses. We protect their networks, data and applications against unforeseen disasters and malicious threats while reducing their operational costs and safeguarding their corporate reputation.

Fusepoint's range of services includes managed hosting, managed application services, business continuity, security and professional consulting services.

Built on a foundation of unrivaled technical expertise and proven operational processes, Fusepoint's managed IT solutions are SLA-guaranteed, scalable and designed to reduce IT costs while mitigating risk of service disruption. Picked as a "company to watch" by IDC Canada, Fusepoint maintains a national network of state-of-the-art data centres and offices strategically located in Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, Montreal and Quebec City. For more information please visit [www.fusepoint.com](http://www.fusepoint.com).

#### **About Sun Microsystems of Canada Inc.**

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**For more information contact:**

Elisabeth Napolano / Laura Watton  
Environics Communications  
416.969.2705/ 416.969.2766  
[enapolano@environicspr.com](mailto:enapolano@environicspr.com) / [lwatton@environicspr.com](mailto:lwatton@environicspr.com)

Roger Hamshaw  
Product Marketing Manager, Fusepoint  
905.363.3796  
[roger.hamshaw@fusepoint.com](mailto:roger.hamshaw@fusepoint.com)

Geoffrey Morgan  
MAVERICK PR  
416.640.5525 x228  
[geoffreym@maverickpr.com](mailto:geoffreym@maverickpr.com)



