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P2 Security

P2 Security was founded in 2003 to develop "next generation Web Access Management technologies." The company has a minority investment from a venture capital firm, but is mainly privately funded and is not seeking additional capital at this time. P2 Security has approximately 20 employees.

Web Access Management (WAM) is a web security technology that protects an enterprise's sensitive web resources and data from unauthorized use. WAM systems perform this security function by validating a user's credentials (authentication), determining whether the validated user is entitled to requested resources (authorization), and keeping a record of all unauthorized access attempts and policy changes (auditing). Most WAM solutions also provide for single sign-on (session management).

Existing WAM technologies are too cumbersome for large organizations to maintain and too cost prohibitive for small to medium-sized companies to consider, according to P2 Security.

To address this problem, P2 Security recently launched maXecurity, an appliance-based solution that offers a new and fundamentally different approach to WAM. Unlike first generation WAM products, maXecurity has been specifically optimized for compliance and audit reporting, ease of integration and scalability, streamlined maintenance, and significantly lower total cost of ownership.

maXecurity slashes initial and recurring costs, making effective and secure WAM practical for organizations of all sizes. As a turnkey solution, maXecurity is ideal for compliance with Sarbanes-Oxley, HIPAA, PCI and other emerging regulatory requirements.

maXecurity's architecture boosts scalability, while reducing software and hardware requirements. It streamlines the compliance reporting and auditing processes and opens the door to a range of new WAM applications and markets. maXecurity minimizes the number of integration points needed for WAM and makes WAM easy to use, update and support. maXecurity can integrate with any HTTPv1.1-compliant web server, and any LDAPv3-compliant user directory.

Optimized for performance and built specifically for WAM, maXecurity eliminates the need for WAM agents and reduces the number of edge devices needed to implement secure WAM. A key component to regulatory compliance is data auditing. maXecurity supports several types of report generation that covers the needs of regulated industries and aids in security threat analysis. Its roles-based approach clearly segregates duties, making it easy to ensure regulatory compliance, while simplifying and improving reporting and auditing capabilities.

Competitors include Sun Java System Access Manager, Novell Access Manager, Oracle Access Manager, RSA Access Manager, CA Siteminder, and IBM Tivoli Access Manager. Only maXecurity combines agent-less proxy with no policy servers, extensive reporting, enforced segregation of duties, 2-step configuration, compatibility with any LDAP server and http server, trustmapping, delegated administration and included hardware.

Competing Enterprise Single Sign-On (ESSO) solutions only handle the storage and auto-login of user passwords. The maXecurity products handle authentication management and also perform policy-based authorization, generate audit reports, and improve web site performance due to its dedicated, highly-optimized hardware. Most ESSO products attempt to synchronize passwords across systems, which leads to "dirty data." In contrast, maXecurity products use existing LDAP directories

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and establish trust relationships between the various repositories.

Currently, three maXecurity appliances are available. maXecurity Basic supports 500 users, maXecurity Prosupports 5,000 users, and maXecurity Enterprise supports 50,000 users. Appliance models can be mixed and matched to scale linearly to any usage scenario. P2 Security will be adding upgrades to its existing maXecurity product line. Additional features will include compliance functionality (including maker/checker) and federation support.

Potential customers include all regulated companies (Sar-Box, HIPAA, PCI), as well as most companies with more than 500 employees/customers. A recent study of a large financial institution has shown that the maXecurity products result in millions of dollars in annual cost savings compared with a competitive WAM product. For QTel, strict FCC requirements make controlling and auditing online access extremely complex. By using maXecurity, QTel was able to quickly and easily bring its billing system online, significantly reducing costs, increasing customer satisfaction and easily providing compliance reports.

Jeff Gresham, founder & CTO (previously a VP at Citigroup and JPMorgan Chase, and VP and Director of Information Technology at Netfolio)

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