Latest independent research sponsored by Vodafone UK shows that prevention is better than a cure for mobile security

IT Managers see *Return on Prevention* as key to providing more secure mobile working

- **The theft, removal or loss of information is the most serious threat organisations face, according to IT managers**
-
- **Anti-virus and anti-malware technologies give the greatest return on prevention**

The respected Ponemon Institute announced today the results of its independent *Return on Prevention Study*. Sponsored by Vodafone UK and F-Secure, the research looked to determine the best technologies, controls and IT practices that yield the greatest prevention value when used to stop corporate information being stolen, lost or corrupted.

The findings clearly show that Return on Investment (ROI) doesn't address the real benefits of information security technologies, which are to prevent data loss, theft or corruption before it happens. By using the measurement of Return on Prevention (RoP), IT and security professionals will find it easier to make the business case for investing in security measures.

"Corporate information is vitally important, no matter what device or application is being used to access it," says Brian Burton, Head of IT Security, Vodafone UK. "While much work has been done over the years to secure corporate networks, the need to be able to work flexibly and remotely whilst being able to access corporate systems on mobile devices such as smartphones and laptops has opened a whole new front in the battle to keep information secure. This study has shown that security professionals need to be able to create, distribute and manage security platforms across a range of devices and applications to prevent data loss and enable secure mobile working, without compromising productivity."

The study also showed that security professionals believe the technologies that provide the greatest RoP for enabling secure mobile working are anti-virus and anti-malware solutions and smartphone security solutions. Additionally, they know that it is difficult to rely purely on user behaviour alone, and so policy enforcement tools, such as Vodafone Secure Remote Access (VRSA), are key.
The study also recognised that user education and clear security policies are often just as important as security technologies in preventing breaches. This means a continual investment in both technology and training, both of which are hard to justify at a board level. To address this, Vodafone UK partners with leading security vendors, such as F-Secure, to provide cross-platform, multi-endpoint solutions, carefully tailored to each customer's needs - providing customers with a high quality one-stop shop for secure mobile working.

"Time and again our research finds that security and data protection activities are both under-funded and under-staffed, but this study shows that an investment in preventative technology can make a difference by helping companies avoid costs associated with data loss," says Dr Larry Ponemon, chairman and founder, Ponemon Institute. "Because expenditures must be justified to pass budget approval hurdles, we believe our RoP model can help make it easier for IT and IT security practitioners to make the business case for acquiring enabling security technologies and related control activities."

ENDS