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Isogon Corporation Announces Intercomm Integrity Enhancement

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TP Monitor for MVS Now Guarantees System Integrity

New York, New York, October 31, 1990—Isogon Corporation has announced a major system integrity enhancement to Intercomm, its high-performance teleprocessing monitor for MVS mainframes. The enhancement centralizes all use of system key and/or supervisor state and enables Intercomm to conform to the stringent requirements of the U.S. government, as well as all system integrity requirements defined by IBM.

Isogon can now guarantee that no part of Intercomm executes in a privileged state and that no unauthorized use of Intercomm can bypass normal MVS integrity and security checks. Any such breach with the enhancement installed and active will be treated as a severity 1 problem, noted Per Hellberg, Isogon's Vice President of Technology.

This new integrity enhancement was developed by Isogon working in cooperation with the Information Systems Security Officer of the US Department of Transportation.

Availability

The security enhancement is currently available to all Intercomm Release 10 users, and will be provided through normal maintenance procedures.

About Isogon

Headquartered in New York City, Isogon Corporation is a developer and marketer of mainframe products, specializing in MVS systems software, offering more than a dozen online and teleprocessing products. In addition, Isogon's microcomputer group develops and vends systems software and utilities for IBM-compatible PCs.

Founded in 1983, Isogon also provides training and technical support services to more than two hundred Fortune 500 companies and government agencies. Over 290,000 people use Isogon's teleprocessing products every day.

For more information about Intercomm, contact Jerry Sindler, Vice President of Marketing, Isogon Corporation, 330 Seventh Avenue, New York, New York 10001, (212) 967-2424.

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INTERCOMM INTEGRITY SVC ENHANCEMENT

Fact Sheet

Purpose: to remove the possibility of Intercomm executing in Supervisor State and/or Protect Key 0 in open code via an SVC (MRSVC) and to replace that SVC with a new SVC (IISVC) that will also prevent illegal access to the Operating System by non-Intercomm programs/users.

Design: the Intercomm Integrity SVC may be implemented only under Release 10 of Intercomm at SM Level 2089 (or higher) for systems executing under XA (MVS/SP2) or ESA (MVS/SP3 or SP4). The SVC (IGCICSVC) is a Type 2 reentrant SVC which requires the LOCAL Lock at entry. The SVC is provided in Load Module form only and must be relinked to SYS1.NUCLEUS or SYS1.LPALIB and defined to the Operating System. Functions previously performed in Intercomm using the MRSVC have been moved to the new SVC, which also contains code to validate the calling user and the function requested. The SVC also prevents accidental or intentional modification of protected storage not previously acquired by the SVC on behalf of the same user, and prevents modification of Link Pack Area modules via the SVC (except when they are used as Intercomm control blocks for Multiregion and ESS).

Implementation: via XM's to Release 10 to provide the new SVC Global IISVC (which the user must set to the desired SVC number), plus changes to affected modules to provide conditional assemblies of those modules which suppress execution of MRSVC-related code, and instead use a new macro to call the new SVC to perform the same function.

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Guarantee: if the MRSVC is removed from the Operating System, then after applying the XMs as released and the IISVC global is set for the new SVC before assembly of modules affected by the XMs, and the new SVC (IGCICSVC) is installed as released and as documented, then Isogon Corporation guarantees that the Operating System code and storage will not be affected by use of an Intercomm SVC. Illegal use of, or access to, the SVC will be signified by an address space abend with User Code 2048. This SVC is also guaranteed to conform to IBM and U.S. Government computer installation and usage security standards. After proper installation and use of the IISVC code, any apparant compromise of the Operating System caused by IISVC processing will be handled as a top priority problem upon receipt of all related system printouts, dumps, assemblies, etc. as determined by communication with the Isogon Intercomm staff.

Advantages: prevention of modification to store-protected Operating System functions and storage, except for storage directly under control of the SVC itself. Release of all acquired (by the SVC) protected areas at system end, cancel or abend. Consolidation of most MRSVC paired calls into one IISVC call.