

Press Release

Information Security

With FireConverge, Arkoon Network Security and CheckPhone launch the world's first solution protecting converging voice and data, delivering *Convergence under Control*

Announcing FireConverge, an intelligent interface linking Arkoon's proven series of Unified Threat Management devices and CheckPhone's unique Secure Voice Communications offerings, providing synchronised deep inspection and control of enterprise voice communications on traditional circuit-switching telephony networks and on the latest Voice over IP deployments.

Lyon, 8th November 2005: Arkoon Network Security, a leading European developer of enterprise information protection solutions, and CheckPhone, Europe's only supplier of voice security solutions, have joined forces to deliver FireConverge, a uniquely powerful solution to ensuring maximum protection of converged or converging enterprise voice and data infrastructures.

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While the business advantages of Voice over IP technology (VoIP) are widely recognised, take up has been hindered by a number of issues, not the least of which are the very real security issues.

Enterprise VoIP rollouts need to ensure protection against new threats such as SPIT (Spam over IP Telephony), IP address spoofing, snooping, and denial of service attacks, as well as attacks already familiar in the world of "classical" circuit-switched telephony – caller ID spoofing, hijacking wire tapping, ringback scams, illicit connections and more – while also ensuring that VoIP telephony usage respects enterprise telephone security policies – for example, not permitting modem calls on lines designated as voice lines.

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To resolve these problems Arkoon and CheckPhone have developed FireConverge, an intelligent interface specification linking the two companies' IP and telephony security products and delivering the conditions for safe, secure rollout of IP telephony.

How does it work ?

Briefly, the FireConverge interface specification allows CheckPhone's ETSS product and Arkoon's UTM products to maintain a dialog ensuring application of global enterprise telephony security policies, defined in ETSS, and secure IP connectivity and network protection, implemented by the Arkoon UTM appliance.

CheckPhone's ETSS product acts as the central point of management for defining and enforcing enterprise telephony security policies. The ETSS system checks and controls permitted/restricted line usage, for example blocking attempted modem calls to or from terminals designated as voice only. If it detects unauthorised usage on a TDM line, ETSS signals the PBX to drop the call. Now, by coupling the ETSS unit via FireConverge with an Arkoon UTM device, the ETSS can impose the same action on VoIP calls, instructing the Arkoon UTM appliance to block IP calls which do not respect corporate telephony security policies.

The Arkoon UTM appliance protects the enterprise IP infrastructure. Arkoon's technology inspects IP call set up protocols – SIP, MGCP, H.323, and proprietary protocols – ensuring conformity with relevant RFCs and detecting and preventing intrusion attempts based on protocol vulnerabilities. Via FireConverge, the Arkoon device communicates the call connection details to CheckPhone's ETSS system, which checks for conformity with enterprise telephony security policies and, if it detects an anomaly, sends a return message to the Arkoon appliance instructing it to terminate the connection.

The FireConverge interface will be available Q1 2006.

About Arkoon

Arkoon Network Security is one of Europe's leading developers of information and communications security solutions, with two complementary product lines protecting network infrastructure and business information assets. A pioneer of unified threat management technology, over 5500 Arkoon UTM appliances protect business and government information systems from network-based attacks in nearly 50 countries around the world. Arkoon's Security BOX technology guarantees end-to-end enterprise information protection through powerful, easy-to-use certificate-based client, server, and application-level encryption. Arkoon is a privately held corporation headquartered in Lyon, France. For more information, visit www.arkoon.com.



About CheckPhone (www.checkphone.com)

CheckPhone was founded in February 2005 by three experienced telecommunications industry professionals. The sole European competitor in its field, Checkphone develops software tools addressing the security issues of enterprise telephony and VoIP. Checkphone's ETSS (Expert Telecom Security System) platform is targeted at large European enterprise customers.

