

RE: Management and integrity of electronic information in the commonwealth

27th October 2003

Dear Tas Luttrell

Further to my conversation with Sheridan of today and Tuesday 22nd October 2003 I am making the following submission.

At this time I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to include this late submission within your process. I believe this is an essential inclusion as it deals with available world-first technology that could have been employed over recent years by the Commonwealth to help to reduce or prevent the theft of hardware and sensitive information.

This technology was invented, designed and produced within Australia without recourse to government grants or assistance. The technology aims to precipitate a paradigm shift in the manner with which electronic hardware and information are securely managed.

Presently, the American multi-national, Tyco Safety Products, is promoting the product for sale within Australia and overseas.

Historical approaches to security have seen great in-roads in the protection and encryption of electronic data and method of transmission, whereas only primitive and sub-standard processes have been, and are currently, employed to secure the hardware assets themselves. Upon reflection, this obviously defeats the purpose of securing the data and its transmission.

The procedures employed to date in securing assets tend to rely solely on slowing down the act of theft, rather than allowing proper preventative and intelligent management of security procedures. Ideally, protecting assets should extend to apprehending the perpetrators of crime, and creating an environment which affords the best possible security measures available, whilst avoiding the 'fortress' mentality. This will ensure theft is reduced and the individuals who are often pilloried as a result of asset loss (for example, security or IT managers and department heads) are able to become more accountable for the assets under their respective control.

With many years of security experience, both within Australia and overseas, including time as the Technical Director of Pinkertons in the United Kingdom. I have sought to lift the standards expected of commercial security companies by employing user-friendly security measures that utilise information technology to best effect.

In November of 2000, we started design on a product whose sole aim was to help alleviate the continuing growth electronic asset theft from the workplace. If the media and research reports were to be believed, this crime had reached epidemic proportions, with costs to business becoming obscene.

Excerpt from CSI/FBI, Computer Crime and Security Survey 2003

In 2003 75% of our survey respondents acknowledged financial losses, but only 47% could quantify the losses

Average losses in USD from a select audience of 530 computer security practitioners within organizations in the USA

	2000	2001	2002	2003
Only Laptop theft	58,794	61,881	89,000	41,107

As such, we sought to develop a product which could be used by security operatives with little or no retraining, and therefore integrate into existing security technologies. Yet this product would also aim to provide a level of technical information without the need of recourse to the information technology department or contractor. Information accumulated by these means could then be used by security managers to identify potential threats to an organization's existing infrastructure, data and intellectual property.

The product has been trademarked PRAETORIAN. It suffices to say that, had Praetorian technology been employed by the customs agency, it is highly unlikely that the recent (and highly publicised) theft of computer assets would have gone undetected.

The enclosures give a good understanding of how this technology could be deployed to reduce the obvious costs of electronic asset theft, as well as some background on the development cycle of the product and its future applications.

Thank you once again for including this late submission within your deliberations

Yours sincerely

Paul Hughes

Managing Director
Savita Technology Pty Ltd