

# Media Release

## **Encryption viruses: you don't need to pay the ransom**

- *Poorly executed encryption means data recovery possible without decryption*
- *Cracking code alternative expensive and lengthy way to defeat virus*
- *Backing up and disk 'hardening' best safeguards*

**Sydney 17 June 2008** – Users of computers infected with viruses, such as the GPcode, that can encrypt a computer's data and demand payment for the decryption key shouldn't despair, according to a leading encryption expert.

"Affected users are not limited to the unattractive options of paying the ransom or waiting several years for a supercomputer to decrypt their hardisk" said Bob Adhar, CEO of Randtronics, the encryption solutions company. "Encrypting viruses such as the GPcode do not actually delete the original plaintext file that they encrypt, although it appears that way to the user. A good file recovery utility program will make good the file."

Fortunately, this solution does not involve breaking the code. "1024-bit code is mind-bogglingly difficult to break. In the unlikely scenario that you could get access to supercomputing levels of processing power and you could start today, the lost information would still need to be worth millions of dollars to you in 2010 to make the code-breaking exercise worthwhile" added Mr Adhar.

Safeguarding against a security breach is always better than trying to solve the problems afterwards, according to Mr Adhar. "Companies and individuals should always have an automated data backup program in place. Everyone knows this is a must but it is frightening how many people do not backup."

Administrators taking a more robust approach to what programs can run on their systems will also reduce breaches. "Rather than having a blacklist of programs that are banned from running on a computer, administrators should set up a whitelist, which defines programs that can be run. This laptop, desktop and server hardening process will provide ultimate protection against viruses and far more sophisticated malware."

### **About Randtronics**

Randtronics is a leader in providing data privacy solutions using cryptosystems. We offer cryptographic and data privacy consulting services in applications and database hardening, column or file encryption, disk-in-line encryption, e-mail encryption, identity theft protection and non-intrusive monitoring of databases. Randtronics' vision of developing personalised cryptographic technologies at affordable prices will enable users to feel secure with their sensitive data residing



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anywhere; PDAs, PCs, Servers and Data Centres. For further information  
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