

iDefense Press Release : 02.10.06 // iDefense Labs

RESTON, Va. (Feb. 10, 2006) - iDefense, a VeriSign company, today announced the company's Vulnerability Contributor Program (VCP) has added 99 new contributors in 2005 and processed 613 vulnerability submissions, representing an 84% increase over 2004. The program successfully disclosed 180 confirmed vulnerabilities throughout 2005 with 35 occurring in the fourth quarter. Over the past three years, the program has consistently identified many of the most severe flaws in broadly used applications and critical business systems. iDefense has developed extensive working relationships with top software vendors, including Microsoft, Apple, Computer Associates, IBM, Novell, RealNetworks, Symantec and more than 100 others, to notify the public of potential security holes and develop patches that mitigate the security risk.

"iDefense discovered 11 Microsoft vulnerabilities, three of which were critical, during 2005", said Joe Payne, COO of VeriSign iDefense. "This represents inclusion in 21% of all Microsoft security bulletins, an incredible percent matched by nobody else in the industry."

The average advance notification for all vulnerabilities in Q4 was 60 days, giving clients two months of additional protection before vendors distributed patches to the market as a whole. There are currently 57 additional submitted vulnerabilities being verified by the iDefense Labs Team.

iDefense has led the industry's commitment to compensating researchers for these significant findings. iDefense's approach of paying for responsible disclosure of vulnerabilities empowers network managers to

proactively make their networks more secure.

"Many of our most valuable contributors consistently identify significant vulnerabilities that may never make the front page, but both avert major exploitation and secure considerable compensation through our rewards program", said Michael Sutton, director of iDefense Labs, which manages the worldwide program.

Bonus System

This past quarter, \$41,000 in quarterly performance bonuses was awarded to the top researchers in the VCP program in addition to the normal payouts for each accepted vulnerability. Eight award types range from \$1,000 to \$10,000, and contributors can win multiple awards. Twin bonus programs also recognize leaders in the past quarter, as well as overall contributions in the past 12 months, with a top award of \$10,000.

Additionally, iDefense is announcing a new quarterly hacking challenge. For the first quarter of 2006, iDefense will reward contributors \$10,000 for each accepted vulnerability that Microsoft ends up classifying as critical. The first quarterly challenge ends March 31, 2006. Further details can be found at <http://labs.idefense.com>.

About iDefense and VeriSign

iDefense, a VeriSign company, provides information security intelligence to the U.S. government and Global 2000 companies, including leaders in financial services, energy, transportation and telecommunications. The company provides customized, actionable, timely and relevant intelligence detailing potential threats, vulnerabilities and security issues directly to C-level executives, general counsels, auditors, senior security managers and staff, and system administrators. Further information is available at

www.iDefense.com or (703) 480-4602. VeriSign, Inc. (Nasdaq: VRSN), operates intelligent infrastructure services that enable and protect billions of interactions every day across the world's voice and data networks. Information on VeriSign's responsible vulnerability disclosure policy can be found at: <http://www.idefense.com/legal>. Additional news and information about the company is available at www.verisign.com.

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Statements in this announcement other than historical data and information constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. These statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause VeriSign's actual results to differ materially from those stated or implied by such forward-looking statements. The potential risks and uncertainties include, among others, the uncertainty of future revenue and profitability and potential fluctuations in quarterly operating results due to such factors as the inability of VeriSign to successfully market its services, including VeriSign iDefense Research; customer acceptance of the services as provided by VeriSign; the risk that expected economies in servicing customers will not materialize; the

incurrence of unexpected costs integrating the assets; increased competition and pricing pressures; and the inability of VeriSign to successfully develop and market new products and services and customer acceptance of any new products or services. More information about potential factors that could affect the company's business and financial results is included in VeriSign's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including in the company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004 and quarterly reports on Form 10-Q. VeriSign undertakes no obligation to update any of the forward-looking statement after the date of this press release.