

*For additional information on Cryptography Research:*

Patrick Corman  
Corman Communications  
(650) 326-9648  
Patrick@cormancom.com

David Finkelstein  
Corman Communications  
(917) 523-1161  
david@cormancom.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Cryptography Research's Nate Lawson to Speak at U.S. Army's  
PENTCIRT Security Forum**

**Security Evaluations Critical Before Purchasing Security Products**

**SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. August 4, 2003** – Product reviews compare features, and certifications like FIPS 140 check products against known flaws, but according to security expert Nate Lawson, only customer-driven security evaluations can provide the in-depth, tailored insight required for intelligent risk management and contingency planning. Lawson, a senior security engineer at Cryptography Research, Inc., believes it is important to perform a thorough security evaluation before purchasing security products in order to validate the vendor's claims against the purchaser's requirements. He will explain how to get the most out of working with a security evaluator as guest speaker at the U.S. Army's monthly Pentagon Computer Incident Response Team (PENTCIRT) Security Forum on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC.

Lawson's presentation, "Peering Behind the Curtain: Does Your Security Vendor Measure Up?," is scheduled for 2:00 to 4:00 pm EDT in Pentagon Auditorium RM 5A1070.

"While certifications are often paid for by the vendor and may not be tailored to an individual customer's needs, an effective security evaluation aligns all the parties' interests, bringing the customer and evaluator together with a vendor who is motivated to sell their product," said Lawson. "Neither simple product reviews nor boilerplate

certifications offer the assurance necessary to design and deploy security for high-risk, high-value systems.”

According to Lawson, developing security criteria and performing a security evaluation helps establish confidence that a product will successfully defend an organization against attack. The pre-purchase evaluation helps assess and open lines of communication between mission-critical operators and security vendors. Further, the process of a security evaluation assists the vendor with improving product security.

At Cryptography Research, Lawson is focused on the design and security evaluation of cryptosystems. He has extensive security software development experience and was the original developer of ISS's RealSecure. At InfoGard Laboratories, Lawson performed FIPS 140 and other formalized cryptographic certification processes. Lawson also has experience with securing distributed systems as co-founder and architect for Elite.Net.

The U.S. Army Information Technology Agency, which conducts the monthly Security Forum, provides IT services to the Pentagon community and is in charge of one of the largest private networks in the nation. The Security Forum provides the Pentagon community with an opportunity to exchange ideas with industry security experts.

### **About Cryptography Research, Inc.**

Cryptography Research, Inc. provides consulting services and technology to solve complex security problems. In addition to security evaluation and applied engineering work, CRI is actively involved in long-term research in areas including tamper resistance, content protection, network security, and financial services. This year, security systems designed by Cryptography Research engineers will protect more than \$50 billion of commerce for wireless, telecommunications, financial, digital television, and Internet industries. For additional information or to arrange a consultation with a member of the technical staff, please contact Jennifer Craft at 415-397-0329 or visit [www.cryptography.com](http://www.cryptography.com).

###