

NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release

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Department of Technology and Information Announces Addition of Spyware Fighter to State's Network Security Arsenal

Dover –Department of Technology and Information (DTI) Secretary Thomas Jarrett today announced that DTI has added another tool to its network security arsenal designed to detect viruses and counter spyware. (Spyware is software loaded on someone's computer to secretly gather information about the computer user.) Blue Coat Proxy SG and ProxyAV are products provided by Blue Coat Systems, Inc., and are designed to help ensure the safety of internet information for Delaware's 35,000 state network users and 114,000 users in the education community.

"Protecting our network and its users from intrusions by this new crop of "bad guys" using spyware is yet another challenge in the area of technology security," said Secretary Jarrett. "DTI is at the forefront of reviewing, testing and deploying the latest in emerging security technology, like these two new appliances. Our staff actually participated in the testing of the AV product before it hit the marketplace."

To understand how these products help improve the security of the State's network, it is necessary to understand how the network itself works when interacting with the Internet. The state's computer network uses proxy servers, which are computers that act as intermediaries between a workstation on someone's desk and the Internet. When someone on the state's network wants to access a website, the proxy server receives the request, determines if the page exists in its cache, or storage area of already downloaded web pages. If it finds the page, it returns it to the user without going out to the Internet, if not, the proxy server requests the page from the Internet for the network user. To the user, the proxy server is invisible because these transactions take place within milliseconds.

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The new Blue Coat proxy products sit at the State's Internet network gateway serving as guards and gatekeepers for state network users. The Blue Coat appliances enable the State to prevent spyware before it can land on desktop computers by inspecting, filtering and blocking content that is associated with spyware installation software. Additionally, the appliances also scan for viruses, and since deployment, are detecting and blocking **2000 incidences of spyware/ viruses per day** from infiltrating the State's system.

Blue Coat's ProxySG product fights spyware in two ways, by setting up web policies that block communications with known spyware sites on the Internet and by scanning webpages for known spyware signatures, i.e. internet destinations where the "bad guys" can access the user's system. Through the identification of problematic websites and the deployment of filters and access policies, DTI and Blue Coat help keep objectionable material like pornography off school computers while at the same time permitting network users fast access to the webpages they need to provide excellent services to Delaware's citizens.

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