



Aventail Introduces The First Extranet-Ready Platform; Aventail Previews its Latest Solution, Aventail ExtraNet Center, at Network+Interop in Atlanta.

Publication: **PR Newswire** Publish date: **October 12, 1998**

SEATTLE, Oct. 12 /PRNewswire/ -- With a strong reputation for providing easy-to-manage security software solutions, Aventail Corporation today announced the introduction of Aventail ExtraNet Center(TM).

Aventail ExtraNet Center enables corporations to securely extend their enterprise applications to business partners, suppliers, and customers over the Internet and other public networks. It is the only extranet-ready platform that delivers the necessary security, centralized management, and application and network integration for building an extranet, eliminating the barriers that have previously deterred the widespread deployment of extranets.

"Businesses are realizing that in order to stay competitive in this global market, they must constantly evaluate and improve their business processes. It is imperative that they think of innovative ways to improve the delivery of information to key individuals," said Evan Kaplan, president & CEO of Aventail Corporation. "Aventail ExtraNet Center enables corporations to improve customer relations, facilitate collaborative projects with partners, and increase employee productivity."

Today's Extranet Challenges Addressed

Aventail Extranet Center is a client/server software solution that addresses the specific security, management, and deployment issues that many corporations face when designing a system to share information with extranet users.

The complete solution provides the following:

- * **Sophisticated Security and Access Controls** Aventail ExtraNet Center not only provides strong encryption and authentication, but also granular access controls that enable administrators to define user privileges based on a broad range of parameters, including authentication/encryption method, user ID, information resource, group affiliation, and day and time. This provides corporations with the flexibility to build custom access profiles to reflect the unique business relationship of each partner.

- * **Application Independent**

Currently, many corporations are deploying extranets with products that only support Web-based applications, greatly limiting the functionality of the extranet. Aventail ExtraNet Center supports all IP-based applications including legacy host, Web, JAVA, ActiveX, CORBA, DCOM+, custom corporate, and client/server applications from corporations such as SAP, BAAN and PeopleSoft.

- * **Simple User Management**

Aventail ExtraNet Center makes deployment easy for the administrator, even if there are thousands or millions of users. Through the Aventail Policy Console, a single intuitive interface, administrators can easily create, delete, or modify extranet users' profiles. Using the Aventail Management Console, these functionalities can also be securely administered from any remote or desktop workstation.

- * **Infrastructure Independent**

Aventail ExtraNet Center runs on most operating systems and works with any firewall, encryption and authentication method, and proxy server. The ability to seamlessly integrate into any existing infrastructure allows corporations to leverage their existing and future network and security infrastructure investments. In addition, it makes it easy for corporations and their business partners to select "best-of-breed" technologies that address their specific business requirements.

- * **Transparent Client**

Designed for non-technical users, Aventail Extranet Client is a highly functional piece of software that is completely transparent to the end user. It can be installed in minutes, makes no technical modifications to the desktop, and can securely traverse any firewall without administrator intervention. Aventail Extranet Client includes Extranet Neighborhood, a revolutionary application that enables users to browse selected 32-bit

Windows-based file systems. Using the popular and well-known Microsoft Windows Explorer user interface, Extranet Neighborhood does not require any end-user training.

* Automated Client Configuration and Distribution

Network administrators can create up to tens of thousands of custom Aventail Extranet Clients in one easy step with the Aventail Customizer. With this tool, network administrators can easily distribute clients and make them available in a central, networked directory for easy access, download, and installation.

"Information Systems (IS) decision makers charged with protecting core business information and the brand-equity of the enterprise will want to look at Aventail ExtraNet Center," said Jim Hurley, managing director of the information security practice with Aberdeen Group. "Our clients are wrestling with how to safely deploy and maintain enterprise commerce activities with key customers, partners and suppliers. Aventail ExtraNet Center is positioned to meet this need."

Real-Life Extranet Deployments

To date, many organizations in the healthcare, financial services, consulting, manufacturing, insurance, and high technology industries have benefited greatly from successful extranet deployments using Aventail solutions.

For example, Ari Friedman, a network engineer at University Health Systems, uses Aventail to provide doctors, medical students, and staff members at The University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio with secure access to patient billing, scheduling, and lab results. By deploying Aventail's extranet solution, the users at the Health Science Center can be more productive and spend more time with their patients, giving them better care.

"I evaluated several VPN hardware products and firewall solutions. The hardware products were unacceptable because the client would have been a nightmare to deploy, and it meant managing and purchasing another device. Firewalls were out of the question because they provided terrible performance," said Friedman. "Aventail meets all of my requirements. Their solution is dependable, versatile, and something that scales well."

Pricing and Availability

Aventail ExtraNet Center will be available in November through Aventail's worldwide sales team and Aventail's Extranet Advantage VAR partners. Pricing details will be available at the time of product release.

About Aventail

Aventail is at the forefront of providing extranet security and management software solutions that allow organizations to securely extend their enterprise applications to strategic partners, suppliers, customers, consultants, and other key individuals. Aventail's extranet solutions enable organizations to increase their competitive advantage, raise profits, and leverage their investments in existing and future enterprise systems. With a strong reputation for providing highly secure and easy-to-manage software solutions, Aventail has received numerous industry awards from publications such as InfoWorld, Network Computing, LAN Times, BYTE Magazine, Software Digest, and Computer Reseller News.

Aventail Corporation is a privately held company headquartered in Seattle, Washington. For more information on the company and its products, please visit the company's Web site at www.aventail.com, or contact the company directly at 206-215-1111, 877-AVENTAIL, or info@aventail.com.

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