Cogito Group

Cogito Group Pty Ltd
Unit 3, 9 Sydney Ave
BARTON ACT 2600

PO Box 4294
KINGSTON ACT 2604
ABN 20 151 795 998

t 02 6140 4494
e sales@cogitogroup.net
w www.cogitogroup.net

MEDIA RELEASE

AUSTRALIAN CYBER SECURITY PRODUCT PROTECTING NZ ePassports

Australian cyber-security specialists, Cogito Group today announced the successful delivery of the New Zealand Government ePassport project, using its home grown developed “Jellyfish” security product.

Richard Brown, Cogito Group Managing Director said, "We have deployed Jellyfish in an as a Service offering in New Zealand. It’s an innovative service that brings a unified approach to security across all government agencies for New Zealand. Our services enable secure interagency collaboration by providing trusted identity, authentication and authorisation mechanisms. Our Jellyfish authentication services further enables inter-agency trust through the provision of credentials and digital signatures."

In the case of ePassports, they add a layer of security to traditional non-electronic passports by embedding an electronic chip in the passport booklet that stores the biographical information visible on page 2 of the passport, as well as digital security features. These digital security features include a New Zealand specific "digital signature." These digital signatures are unique to each country and can be verified using their respective certificates.

“High assurance cyber security solutions, like Jellyfish are necessary to establish a hierarchal chain of trust to certify users and devices. This authentication, in this instance, referred to as ePassport validation, is the process of validating the authenticity and integrity of an ePassport by verifying the digital signature on the chip. Together, the signature and certificates form a trust chain wherein one end is securely anchored in the authority of the issuing State and the other end is securely stored in the chip of the ePassport as the Document Security Object, said Richard Brown, Managing Director and founder of Cogito Group.

The Passports Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) is a secure environment within the passport system which provides the digital signatures to e-passports. New Zealand is a founding member of the International Civil Aviation Authority Public Key Directory (ICAO PKD) therefore it is important for the New Zealand government through the Department of Internal Affairs, to issue e-Passports in compliance with the latest standards set by ICAO. By adhering to the ICAO security standards, New Zealand now confirms to borders and customs the authenticity of its passports.

“This has been a 15 month complex project, dealing with both New Zealand Government agencies and major international service providers. There are more than 100 States, including Australia and New Zealand and non-state entities (like the United Nations) currently issuing ePassports, and over 490 million ePassports in circulation.

We are so proud it is our joint Australian and New Zealand team developed cyber security solution, Jellyfish, that is being utilised here. Jellyfish does more than just Authentication, in fact we have specifically designed Jellyfish as a modular solution. Jellyfish has purposely been designed as a modular platform that is agile and adaptive to change through daily product improvements and through its integrated machine learning capabilities.

“Security products too often sit in silos,” Mr Brown explained. “For example, you might have different products for credential management, firewall management, endpoint protection, mobile device management, and even one for building access.

“All the modules within Jellyfish talk to each other and can learn from each other. Essentially, we can identify and act on new risks by allowing disparate security capability to not only talk to one another but actively respond based on that conversation. This enhances even older capability far past what it was intended to achieve on its own.”

For example, in March this year Cogito Group formally launched the latest Jellyfish module – CogCASB. CogCASB is Jellyfish’s Cloud Access Security Brokerage (CASB) product.

“Many governments and organisations are embracing a “cloud first policy” to drive digital transformation. This is because cloud platforms enable companies to adopt new technology faster, normally with lower costs, particularly around those upfront capital costs,” Mr Brown said. “However, we must ensure the data that is sent to the cloud is protected and remains the property of the customer, not the provider”.

“CogCASB aims to address the security, privacy, data jurisdictional over-reach and control issues that have arisen around the Cloud.

“Cyber criminals respond to updates in security measures by finding new ways to infiltrate our systems. Cyber security is like an arms race with both sides constantly evolving their weapons and defences,” Cogito Group Managing Director, Richard Brown warned.

“Therefore, we can never be complacent. Cyber security products are not set and forget. We are constantly innovating and extremely proud that nations, like New Zealand, are open to the new ideas we are bringing to the market and are engaging with us to protect their trusted credentials.”

Media contact:

Bernadette Brown, Cogito Group Director 0417 266 695
Fiona Wong, Cogito Group, Marketing Assistant 0411 126 173