Computer
\ET]

MD Alan Romanis on
(o [o10] o] [TaYe Mol Lo e (V[1A’/ 14"}

Distributing the database to 1ts ultimate end

18

Deloitte & Touche Technologies, a new company recently launched in Johannesburg, has entered the market with a compelling new technology which has the potential to enable both government and the private sector toreverse SAâ\200\231s current high rate of fraud.

The companyâ\200\231s vision is to find practical solutions to emerging trends and their inherent problems by providing an infrastructure which enables emerging technologies to become both practical and affordable.

Colin Holgate, MD of the company, says the trend towards decentralising official databases, albeit healthy, has resulted inan alarming increase in private information being used fraudulently.

â\200\234Fraud costs our economy vastsums of money and occurs onevery level imaginable, from credit cards to pension payments. Part of the problem s that no technology in use today has the capacity to store enough verifying information at an affordable cost.â\200\235

He saysitis possible to take the distributed database to its ultimate end by taking it to the individual who can control his exposure torisk while having any transaction processed anywhere at any time.

Early applications of the technology are likely to include cost-effective and efficient elections, a national identity database, vastly increased management of pension payments, licensing of both cars and drivers, and the management of medical information.

Pension payments are an area in which fraudis escalating, making it increasingly difficult and dangerous for pensioners to collect their monthly payments.

The technology could reverse this trend by enabling pensions to be collected on random days rather than on a specific day of the month, and at a variety of outlets.

The technology also has far-reaching implications for the private sector, including banking, retail, and crowd control at

events such as the Rugby World Cup and concerts, environments in which it would enable the security of individuals.

The way the technology could be ap-
plied to elections is particularly pertinent
as the country gears up for the first local
elections since the government of national
unity came into power.

â\200\234Our technology enables a much
quickerand more secure voting process. It
does away with the need for the clumsy
UV ink verification process, extensive
waiting and queuing, unfair voting prac-
tices and the need to issue last-minute
identity documents and temporary votersâ\200\231
cards.â\200\235

The technology also makes the imple-
mentation of alarge-scale national identity
database feasible.

Mail
Exchange

extends into
Africa

Communication with the African conti-
nent using E-mail has been boosted sub-
stantially by the Mail Exchange (Mx) with
the recent establishment of E-mail post
offices in six African countries - Kenya,
Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Bot-
swana and Namibia. Connectivity to Zam-
bia, Angola and Nigeria is planned for
around mid-year.

â\200\234Communication is the single biggest
hurdle in dealing with countries spanning
sub-Saharan Africa and E-mail with its
integrity checks, verification and ability to
communicate automatically, has provided
the solution,â\200\235 says Mail Exchange MD
Derek Kreunen.

BTR Dunlop to invest more in IT

BTR Dunlop recently began a two-year project set to cost more than
R13m to upgrade the groupâ\200\231s computer systems and networks. The
project forms part of a strict programme aimed at bringing BTR Dunlop
operations to world class manufacturer levels.

Productivity and efficiency levels are to benefit from the advanced
computer technology that will soon be up and running at all seven BTR

divisions around the country.

â\200\234In a concerted effort to streamline group communications we have
replaced our previous computer systems with non-proprietary Unix-
based hosts and Novell LANs,â\200\235 says Martin Klein, BTR Dunlopâ\200\231s group

network manager.

â\200\234Previously we were writing in-house software applications. In
future we will be able to concentrate on our core business by using the
Embrace package supplied by ACS.â\200\235

The groupâ\200\231s previous system was governed by a mainframe at the
Durban head office. With decentralisation, divisions have their LANs
and Unix hosts, each in turn linked to a WAN encompassing 23 sites.

Some 650 PCs, supplied by Olivetti, will come on line within the next 24 months. The groupâ\200\231s WAN is based on Micon Communicationâ\200\231s - Marathon equipment, suppiied by Centera, and using Telkomâ\200\231s 64K Diginet services. On the end-user software side, BTR Dunlop has standardised on the Microsoft Office suite for word processing, spreadsheets and graphics applications.

Satellite phones for South Africa

By the turn of this century Telkom customers will have access to a satellite telephone service fromany pointin SA when the Inmarsat-P satellite system goes into service.

Telkom has signed an agreement to invest $20minan Inmarsat affiliated company, formed to implement a global handheld satellite phone system. The amount will be paid over a period of four years. Theaffiliated investors come from 39 countries spanning six continents.

The system will comprise 10 operational and two spare satellites in two intermediate orbital planes.

The satellites will relay between the user and a Satellite Access Node (SAN) within the satelliteâ\200\231s view. The SANs are

interconnected using terrestrial facilities and are linked through Gateways owned and operated by third parties, to public terrestrial and cellular networks.

The development of the Inmarsat-P system represents four years of collaborative work with telecommunications, aerospace and equipment manufacturing companies, consultants and researchers worldwide.

When Inmarsat-P begins operations in 1999 the new company will provide a new, low-cost global satellite phone service, as well as adata, fax and paging service using hand-held pocket-sized terminals.

The service will be complementary to, and not in competition, with terrestrial cellular/GSM services.

Lotus SA shows record sales

Despite major restructuring during 1994, both locally and internationally, Lotus experienced the highest year-on-year growth for its products during the last quarter of 1994, says Mike Struthers, Lotus corporate sales manager.

â\200\234We attribute this partly to the new Lotus volume purchase programme, Passport, which makes it both easy and cost-effective for companies to buy our software. We are also beginning to see greatinterestin our communication products including the E-mail application, cc:Mail and Lotus Notes.â\200\235

Struthers believes that Lotusâ\200\231 success with desktop products has been most evident in the corporate environments.

â\200\234Organisations that have invested heavily in IT, typically have the infrastructure to research and test before committing to software purchases. Today companies need to share files

and access information across a variety of platforms and protocols.

â\200\234Lotusâ\200\231 cross-platform strategy, together with our workgroup capabilities, offers the power and functionality that multi-national networked companies need,â\200\235 he says.

7 @eNICOIVi

GENICOMâ\200\231S new generation line printers for low cost printing.

GENICOM, the leading line printer manufacturer hasintroduced its new 4800 series line matrix printers. Speeds of 400,800 and 1400 lines per minute are now available from GENICOMâ\200\231s feature rich 4810, 4840 and 4490XT models.

One of the significant advantages of impact printing technology is its low cost of printing and its fast, dependable paper handling capability.

GENICOM boasts a unique shuttle mechanism, that is warranted for life, giving the printers no duty cycle restrictions.

The printers incorporate a wide range of emulations and application-dedicated features for high-volume information processing, distribution networks, business computing systems, office networks, industrial bar code printing, labels , reports, and forms applications.

Features

* 400/800/1400 lines-per-minute models.

Â« Office quiet stylised cabinet.

*New, patented ribbon system saves money.

Â« Prints on up to 6-part stationery.
Â» Advanced shuttle mechanism - life warranty.

Â« Fast, dependable paper handling, top or rear exit, and on-the-fly paper positioning.

Â« Forms setup, and storage.

Â« Auto interface switching for multiple hosts. (Parallel & serial with options of Dataproducts Twinax or Coax, AT&T SSl, Ethernet (TCP/IP & Novell), Token Ring, QMS and IGP.

Â« Worldwide range of font styles.

Â« Industrial graphics, bar codes, labels.

Call Colin Dobeson at GENICOM for more information.
Tel: (011) 787 9506 Fax: (011) 789 1600